

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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FOI/PA# 1412777-000

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Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

DML:MK

December 7, 1941

9 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

58457

I called SAC McKee at the Washington field office and instructed that the State Department wants the Bureau to arrange through the cable and telegraph companies to receive all messages submitted by the Japanese, German, Italian, French, Spanish, and Finnish Embassies.

The above instructions are to pertain to both outgoing and incoming messages.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Addendum: Subsequently Mr. Bruce Allen of Western Union telephonically contacted me and stated that he had received a request from the Washington Field Office to the effect that the Western Union should receive all messages filed by the above-named Embassies

Mr. Allen stated that he was calling to verify these instructions. I advised him that these instructions were correct; that the State Department had ordered that these procedures be followed. Mr. Allen said he would cooperate fully.

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. Harbo  
Tele. Room  
Tour Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Boehm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-86 BY 27181

RECORDED  
62-62736-101  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 DEC 11 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

AR:AI

December 7, 1941

8:20 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Berle said, through Mr. Warren, that it meets with his approval to request FCC to monitor tonight as many stations as it is possible for it to monitor, having in mind that for some time FCC has been monitoring certain stations. Mr. Berle had no particular ones in mind, but wanted to get the maximum coverage tonight.

Mr. Coffey has been requested to place this into effect immediately.

Respectfully,

*A. Rosen*  
A. Rosen

*Just how do we fit in. I thought FCC functioned separately & somewhat independently - in more ways than one.*

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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120

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62-62736-102  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
8 DEC 15 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

AR:DS

December 7, 1941

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Holloman.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to the Director's comment concerning how we fit into the matter of requesting FCC to monitor certain stations which they previously have been monitoring, Mr. Warren has advised me that the FCC submitted a list to the State Department of certain commercial stations which were being monitored by the FCC. Mr. Berle requested that the Bureau ask the FCC to reinstitute the previous coverage of this approved list of stations which FCC had previously handled. This was to insure as complete coverage as is possible. The material which was obtained as a result of this coverage was to be retained by the FCC and in the event the State Department desired to review the material, it would be available in such form as would allow its complete review. We were requested by Mr. Berle to handle this matter in view of the fact that Mr. Warren was in my office and that Mr. Warren was acting in cooperation with us and on the job all day long.

Incidentally, Mr. Berle expressed his appreciation for the excellent cooperation the Bureau had afforded him so far. Mr. Warren told Mr. Berle that it was a pleasure to see the way the FBI was clicking in all matters.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
Respectfully,

A. Rosen

62-62736-103  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
8 DEC 15 1941  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-21

Fundamentally, in an operation of this kind, we are without the extensive equipment that is needed it being consequently necessary for us to utilize our monitoring facilities upon the projects which appear to be most likely to produce immediate results. We have been trying to farm out to FCC in the past 24 hours those items which appear to be of a definitely secondary nature but which nevertheless have to be done. E.A.T.



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 1679

El Paso, Texas

December 11, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Upon receipt of teletype from the Bureau at 10 P. M., Sunday, December 7, 1941 to take immediate steps to stop all press communications to Japan, Germany, Italy, France and Finland, Special Agent A. R. GERE immediately notified CLAUDE E. ELLETT, City Superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company, G. N. WESTERFELD, Superintendent of the Western Union, JOHN C. AMADOR, United Press representative at KTSM radio station, and W. J. HOOTEL, Editor of the El Paso Times of the Bureau's instructions in this regard and each expressed his entire willingness to comply with the Bureau's instructions.

WILLIAM P. BLOCKER, American Consul General, Juarez, Mexico, was also contacted through his assistant Mr. OWEN W. GAINES, in order to prevent the possible filing of such press communications by some enterprising reporters through the telegraph company at Juarez, Mexico; and arrangements were made with the Juarez, Mexico officials to prevent the filing of such press communications to the five countries named above.

Special Agent C. B. WINSTEAD, Resident Agent at Albuquerque, New Mexico, also made similar arrangements with the Western Union and Postal Telegraph officials at Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico and with a representative of the Associated Press at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Very truly yours,

*D. A. Bryce*

D. A. BRYCE  
Special Agent in Charge

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY  
ARG:bkn

**RECORDED**

62-62736-104  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
1 DEC 15 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
HOLLAND

7 JAN 20 1942

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Thomas Harris  
Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D. C.

58456

Dear Mr. Harris:

There is attached hereto for your information a memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on censorship problems held in my office on the afternoon of December 8, 1941.

I desire to express to you my appreciation for your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ DEC 9 1941 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-6

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62-62736-105  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 11 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

221

*Handwritten:* Censorship of radio

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Archibald MacLeish  
Librarian  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. MacLeish:

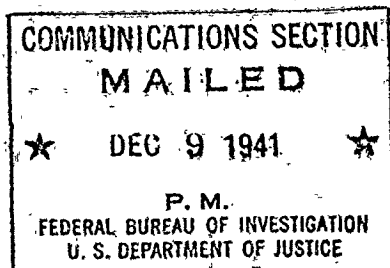
There is attached hereto for your information  
a memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on  
censorship problems held in my office on the afternoon  
of December 8, 1941.

I desire to express to you my appreciation for  
your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

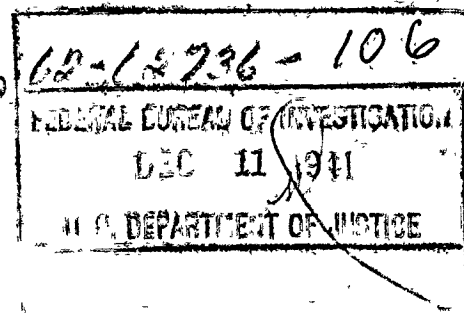
Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED



CH-3 224

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Herbert E. Gaston  
 Assistant Secretary in Charge of Coast Guard,  
 Narcotics and Secret Service  
 Treasury Department  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gaston:

There is attached hereto for your information  
 a Memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on  
 censorship problems held in my office on the afternoon  
 of December 8, 1941.

I desire to express to you my appreciation for  
 your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED  
 DEC 9 1941 ★  
 P. M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-62736-107
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 11 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-6 227

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Captain H. K. Fenn  
Office of Naval Intelligence  
Arlington Medical Center Building  
Clarendon, Virginia

Dear Captain Fenn:

There is attached hereto for your information  
a memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on  
censorship problems held in my office on the afternoon  
of December 8, 1941.

I desire to express to you my appreciation for  
your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
DEC 9 1941  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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RECORDED

62-62736-108
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 11 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Major W. P. Corderman  
Office of Military Intelligence  
Room 200, Old Dominion Building  
Clarendon, Virginia

Dear Major Corderman:

There is attached hereto for your information  
a memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on  
censorship problems held in my office on the afternoon  
of December 8, 1941.

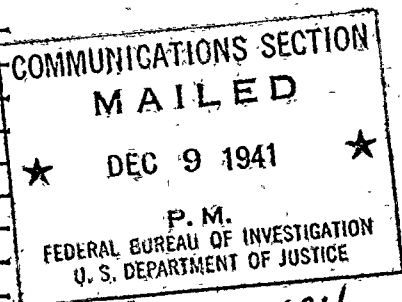
I desire to express to you my appreciation for  
your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

Sincerely yours,

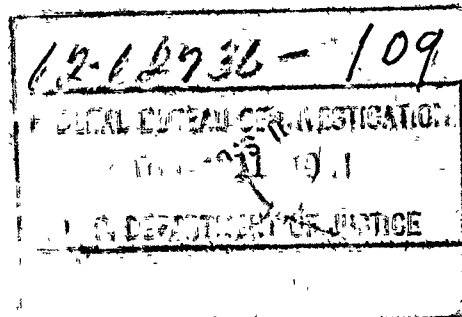
Enclosure

*Handwritten: Censorship of 12/10/41*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



CH-6 <sup>224</sup>



December 9, 1941

~~PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. George A. Gordon  
Acting Chief  
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

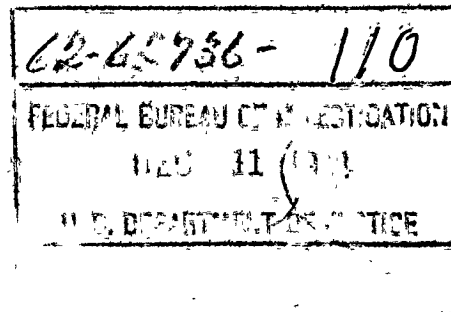
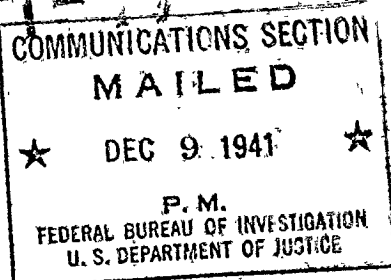
There is attached hereto for your information a memorandum recording the minutes of the conference on consorship problems held in my office on the afternoon of December 8, 1941.

I desire to express to you my appreciation for your interest and cooperation in attending this conference.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

TGS:MAR

December 10, 1941.

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: RADIO AND CABLE  
CENSORSHIP BY  
UNITED STATES NAVY.

Dear Sir:

On the afternoon of December 7, 1941 I had a telephone conversation with ADMIRAL HENRY D. COOKE, USNR, who is in charge of the Radio and Cable Censorship under the direction of the United States Navy. I deemed it advisable to establish a liaison relation with this Agency and assigned Special Agent T. G. Spencer to act as the Bureau's liaison with ADMIRAL COOKE.

The Sensorship Office is located at 68 Broad Street, New York City, which is the International Telephone and Telegraph Building, and occupies the entire seventh, eighth and ninth floors of this building. The Censorship Office is headed by ADMIRAL HENRY D. COOKE, United States Navy Retired, and his assistant is CAPTAIN HARRY E. SHOEMAKER, USNR. The operations or executive office is headed by LIEUTENANT COMMANDER A. B. BAGLEY, USNR, and his aide is LIEUTENANT P. H. HUSTED, USNR. A very close liaison relation has been established with the above two officers in that they decide all matters of policy and make all decisions except, of course, on major matters which are referred to ADMIRAL COOKE for his opinion.

The various departments operating under ADMIRAL COOKE and the executive officers are as follows:

Administration Department, which handles office management, hiring and supervision of personnel, placing orders for supplies, equipment, etc., and is headed by LIEUTENANT ROBERT E. ATKINSON, USNR.

Information Department, headed by LIEUTENANT SAM. R. MILBANK, USNR. This department compiles all the information available from all sources pertaining to cable users. An extremely close relationship is being maintained with this department in that this department is

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 18 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

Sub EPC



Director  
12/10/41

charged with the duty of knowing the identity, nationality and background of all cable users. They have inaugurated the policy of first determining the extensive users of cables; they ascertained the names of all persons and companies who have direct lines to the various cable companies in New York City, and obtained Dun & Bradstreet reports on these individuals and corporations and are presently reviewing these reports. After they have completed a review of their reports they are going to request that the Bureau files be checked against any suspicious persons who are listed as officers or directors of these corporations and also the individual users as is reflected in the Dun & Bradstreet reports.

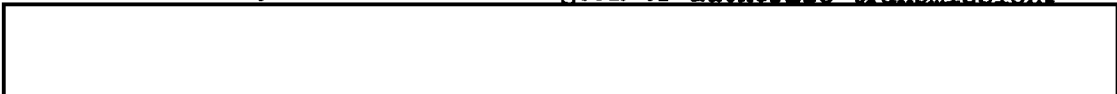
\* Regulations Department, headed by LIEUTENANT ROBERT MULLANEY, USNR, is responsible for publishing the rules and regulations pertaining to censorship for all cable users. This is also known as the Legal Department of the Censorship Bureau.

\* Censoring Department, headed by LIEUTENANT WALTER GRAESSER, USNR, is charged with the actual reading and censoring of all messages and the personnel of this department is comprised of commissioned Navy officers.

\* Communications Department, headed by LIEUTENANT COMMANDER GEORGE SHECKLER, is referred to as the Field Censorship Department. The personnel assigned to this department are located in the offices of the various cable companies and all messages offered for transmission at any of the cable companies in New York are first given to them and they, in turn, route it to the Censorship Office at 68 Broad Street, and, if the message is passed it is returned to them before it is transmitted.

The actual handling of a cablegram under the present regulations is as follows:

When the cablegram is tendered to a cable company in New York, the original message is first handed to the field censor who examines it and sees that it conforms technically to the regulations described by the Censorship Bureau. This field censor has no authority to censor a cablegram or authorize transmission.



b7E

Director  
12/10/41

b7D  
b7E

Director,  
12/10/41

b7E

The Information Department does not have any investigators and LIEUTENANT MILBANK has indicated that if any active investigation is required of any companies or individuals this information will be requested of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other Government agencies.

The censorship of cablegrams started on the afternoon of December 7, 1941 and is, of course, being continued. At the time the censorship was started ADMIRAL COOKE'S force consisted of approximately fifty persons and it is the ADMIRAL'S belief that it will take approximately six hundred people to adequately carry on the censorship functions.

Every effort is being made to augment the force through the United States Navy Retired and Reserve list and also with civilian employees. It has been estimated that 90% of all the traffic and cablegrams will be handled by the New York Office and that on an average of 40,000 messages will come to the attention of the censorship office in New York City.

Under the present regulations all messages must be in the English language, must be simple in form and contain no dubious

Director  
12/10/41

meaning. The name and full address of both the sender and receiver must be set forth. All coded messages, messages having cable addresses and all messages to any of the Axis countries have been suppressed without discrimination.

It is the plan of the Censorship Bureau to allow the use of about six commercial codes which codes will be prescribed by the Censorship Bureau.

However, it has been ascertained that beginning at 10 A.M. on December 9, 1941, personal messages written in the English language, destined for Germany were being passed. [REDACTED]

b7E

it was observed that many of the personal messages to Germany were Christmas or New Year greetings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Bureau will be advised of any changes in the physical set up of the Censorship Bureau and; of course, of any pertinent information which may be received as a result of the liaison relation with the Censorship Bureau.

Very truly yours,

*P. E. Foxworth*

P. E. FOXWORTH, *Atty*  
Assistant Director.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 1679

El Paso, Texas

December 11, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At 4:05 P. M., Sunday, December 7, 1941, Mr. CARSON telephoned from the Bureau and advised Special Agent A. R. GERE, who was acting in my absence, to make arrangements with the telephone officials to stop all telephone conversations between Japanese or Japanese and other individuals across the Mexican border.

Arrangements were immediately made with Mr. GEORGE F. SPEECHLEY, District Manager of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, El Paso, Texas to carry the Bureau's instructions into effect and he expressed his entire willingness to cooperate in this regard.

Arrangements were also made through American Consul General WILLIAM P. BLOCKER at Juarez, Mexico [redacted]

b7D  
b7E

[redacted] and other individuals.

Very truly yours,

D. A. BRYCE  
Special Agent in Charge

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY  
ARG:bkn

RECORDED

4 DEC 31 1941

62-62736-112  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
1 DEC 15 '41  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
[initials]  
[initials]  
[initials]

HHC:LB:MS

December 12, 1941

The Honorable  
The Postmaster General  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Postmaster General:

I thought you would be interested in learning further developments in the field of censorship. As you are aware, authority was given to Army officials yesterday to promptly begin the censorship of all incoming, outgoing and in transit international mail. This censorship will become effective within forty-eight hours. There must of necessity be a selectivity in the sampling processes until the personnel engaged on censorship work has been increased to the point where it can handle the entire load.

I also authorized Navy Department officials to censor the privately leased wires between the United States and Cuba and any other wires privately leased for international communications

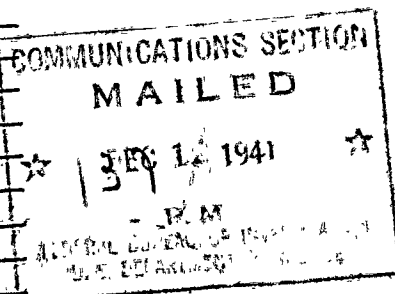
b7E

There have been discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications addressed to Germany and Italy. No deliveries are now being made of any communications addressed to the German and Italian Embassies which are received from Germany and Italy. The same application is being made to German and Italian occupied territories. This practice has previously been applied to Japan and Japanese occupied territory.

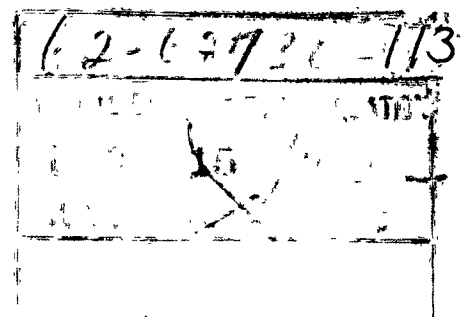
I have requested and obtained a one hundred per cent surveillance of all in the United States by the Federal Communications Commission.

b7E

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
6645



One of the problems which has existed is that, although radio technicians have been fingerprinted, the fingerprints have not been made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination against the fingerprint files which we maintain. The taking of the fingerprints and holding of them has therefore been of no value. This has been the case because the Chairman of the FCC made promises to certain labor officials that these fingerprints would not be made available to any other agency. The Chairman of the FCC has now been persuaded to communicate with labor leaders to obtain a release from this pledge to enable the FCC to take appropriate action with reference to any undesirable technicians handling domestic or international broadcasts in the United States. I have also requested the Chairman of the FCC to explore the possibility of his conducting appropriate investigations of any alien news commentators with a view to taking such action as the facts may justify.

It has not been confirmed that the customs authorities are making a one hundred per cent check of all international shipments, incoming, outgoing and in transit, with a view to censoring any communications and publications contained therein. The same rule is being applied by them to outgoing, incoming and in transit travelers and their luggage.

There is a "jamming" of the wave which is presently being utilized by a radio station in the German Embassy to make communications going out of that station unintelligible. This station has been recently located and apparently has been but recently installed.

For the purposes of coordination, conferences were held yesterday with representatives of Federal Communications Commission and also with naval and military authorities to coordinate the various phases of censorship activities which are being practiced and initiated. I have been particularly pleased at the cooperative attitude displayed in this coordination effort.

- 3 -

Arrangements also have been made for the delivery to me this morning of [redacted] that they may be censored.

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There is attached hereto a statement of present practices in the field of censorship, which brings this matter up to date.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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12-12-41

Enclosure



December 11, 1941

RE: CENSORSHIP

THE PRESENT PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF  
CENSORSHIP AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Military and Naval censorship of communications to and from Military and Naval personnel is in effect at bases outside of the United States, including bases leased from the   Government.

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2. Military and Naval Communications Sections have been confidentially engaged in the surveilling of various types of international radio communications which were believed might be of special significance to the Army and Navy.

3. The Federal Communications Commission is doing a general monitoring job in all unauthorized fields of radio communication, point-to-point radio communications and unauthorized broadcasts. In this connection, the Federal Communications Commission is continually patrolling the ether to pick up any unauthorized transmittals or broadcasts.

4. The Federal Communications Commission conducts a monitoring of every word of incoming propaganda transmitted by radio.

5. The Federal Communications Commission is now covering some foreign point-to-point radio communications and is equipped to cover additional ones upon request.

6. The Federal Communications Commission is now doing general monitoring surveillance in the domestic broadcast field when pertinent to and in connection with foreign language broadcasts.

7. The Federal Communications Commission places a limitation on the use of radios on foreign ships in United States waters. They are not permitted to use their radios except for safety and similar purposes.

8. The Federal Communications Commission prohibits amateur radio stations and radio operators broadcasting to foreign countries.

9. The Federal Communications Commission controls, through its licensing power, radio operators and radio stations. This licensing power is naturally a strong influence, as the Commission can refuse to grant a license to an operator or a station and can revoke licenses already issued.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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10. The Federal Communications Commission requires that a complete record be maintained of all communications by domestic telegraph, by international cable telegraph, by international radio telegraph, and all similar communications by radio from ship to shore and international communications. The carrier or transmittal companies are required to keep copies of communications and programs and require that these communications be maintained in a file. At present, these communications must be maintained for one year.

The only review of any of the communications and records, which has taken place, has been done for the purpose of determining the classification of communications, the speed of transmittal, the type of service, and usually these searches are made in connection with hearings. The Federal Communications Commission has not engaged in the practice of reviewing the messages as to context material.

11. The Federal Communications Commission is establishing an office in [ ] and is obtaining from the [ ] access to their files and records concerning European broadcasts.

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12. The Post Office Department examines samples of suspected mail items, not including first class letters, but including prints, parcel post and papers, for the purpose of determining if the publication or the mailer is registered under the Registration Act or to determine if the matter can be classified as propaganda. An opinion is then obtained as to whether the matter is nonmailable, and suitable action taken.

13. The Post Office Department examines first class mail only when there is an indication that the contents are contraband and the addressee or addressor can be persuaded to open the communication in the presence of Postal authorities, or when there is adequate information to support the use of a search warrant in examining the mail.

14. The Post Office Department prohibits the transmission through the mails of publications which violate copyright laws.

15. The Post Office Department enforced the laws which provide penalties for transmission by mail of certain items, such as poisons; explosives; obscene matter; libelous, indecent and fictitious matter; and several other classifications prohibited specifically by statute.

16. The Post Office Department, at the request of the FBI, will hold suspected mail for 48 hours until a search warrant can be obtained to permit examination.

17. Customs inspection aids in controlling all incoming mail, except first class mail, and also aids in controlling communications which may be shipped internationally by freight or other means.

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Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

18. Freight and other exports are examined by Customs authorities to determine the existence of information of value to the American export control system, narcotics control and proclamations prohibiting the export of firearms.

19. It is a practice of Customs officials to search persons and their belongings when they are outgoing or incoming Nationals of Japan, Germany, Italy and the "blocked" nations.

20. All incoming vessels are searched by Customs authorities, and outgoing vessels are searched when a special reason exists.

21. The Liaison Section of the General Counsel's Office, Treasury Department, examines suspected literature to determine if it is propaganda or subversive literature. The information is reviewed, digested, analyzed to some extent, and referred to interested departments and agencies. This examination includes films, photographs, books and publications.

22. Foreign Funds Control receives from Customs and Post Office authorities and investigative agencies any incoming material from foreign countries which might contain securities or be of interest in controlling foreign funds.

23. The U. S. Maritime Commission endeavors to get the cooperation of newspapers so that they will cease publishing specific information concerning the movements of merchant ships and cargoes.

24. The Economic Defense Board receives intercepts, usually those discovered by [redacted] censorship, through the State Department, the FBI, and from Military and Naval Intelligence, when the intercepted material relates to matters of economic defense.

25. The FBI maintains close liaison with [redacted] censorship and receives all intercepts considered of value from an intelligence standpoint. A similar relationship exists with [redacted]

26. The FBI receives intercepts from the Federal Communications Commission and occasionally from the Coast Guard when the contents relate to matters of intelligence.

27. The FBI operates a radio monitoring station for handling intelligence work, including radio surveillance in cases of counter-espionage and countersabotage, when the cases are within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

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28. The Library of Congress has a current interest in all literature seized as propaganda. The information is for the files of the Library and for possible restricted dissemination to certain interested government departments, [redacted] contributes to the total collection of such items. The Library performs a selection and examination function in connection with material recommended to the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs for dissemination in Latin America.

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29. The State Department censors [redacted] both as to incoming and outgoing mail. There is a sampling of from 33-1/3 to 50 per cent of the contents of [redacted] to see that the contents comply with regulations which have been promulgated by the State Department to the effect that only that mail may be included which is for the purpose of promoting and protecting American interests.

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30. The Immigration and Naturalization Service censors mail addressed to or from persons held under deportation processes.

31. The Immigration and Naturalization Service may require an alien departing from the United States to submit for official inspection all documents and articles and other things which are being removed from the United States upon, or in connection with, such person's departure.

32. The Federal Bureau of Prisons makes a one hundred per cent censorship of all incoming and outgoing mail of inmates incarcerated in their institutions. The Federal Bureau of Prisons also determines what magazines and books may be received and read by the inmates and also selects the radio programs which they may hear.

33. A spot-check is made on all domestic foreign language broadcasts made in the United States. There are 200 stations using 31 foreign languages.

34. The Federal Communications Commission is constantly patrolling the ether along a systematic line, looking for illegal radio stations.

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35. No messages of any kind are permitted to be dispatched to Japan and to Japanese occupied territory.

36. The FBI has instructed that no telephone calls be permitted to be sent into or out of the Japanese Embassy in Washington.

37. The FBI has requested telephone companies not to permit Japanese to telephone to any point outside of the continental United States.

38. The Navy Department is conducting censorship by surveillance of international communications by radio-telephone, radio-telegraph, and by cable.

39. The Navy is surveilling communications from all coastal harbor stations.

40. The Army is censoring telegraph and telephone communications between Mexico and the United States.

41. No international telegraphic communications are permitted to be delivered to the Japanese Embassy or Japanese consulates in the United States.

42. The Federal Communications Commission has imposed radio silence on all commercial ships.

43. The Federal Communications Commission is monitoring all possible frequencies to intercept international communications between Mexico and Axis points.

44. A surveillance is being conducted of any possible radio transmissions from [redacted] and signals have already been detected emanating from [redacted]

b7E

45. An FCC inspector has established liaison with designated military posts so that, upon military request, the FCC will require radio facilities to close down temporarily until further instructions.

46. The Coordinator of Information Office listens to all international broadcasts through a central station in New York.

47. The FCC is maintaining a spot-check on a station at Lima, Peru, which communicates with Tokyo and Berlin, and on another at Bogota, Colombia, which communicates with Rome and Berlin.

48. All amateur radio broadcasts have been discontinued except those approved by the FCC for use in national defense and the Office of Civilian Defense.

49. All commercial codes have been stopped. Later certain codes will be approved.

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Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

50. On December 11, 1941, there were discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications addressed to Germany and Italy, and no deliveries are to be made of any communications, even addressed to German and Italian Embassies, which are received from Germany or Italy.

51. Instructions were issued whereby military authorities will have in operation a postal censorship on incoming, outgoing and in-transit mail of an international character within forty-eight hours. There will necessarily be a selectivity in the sampling of these types of mail proportionate to the progressive increase in personnel.

52. The Office of Naval Intelligence was authorized to censor international communications by leased wire which will become effective in the United States.

53. The Treasury Department through its customs agents now reports a one hundred per cent censorship of international communications by freight, express, air express and that carried by passengers on their person or in their luggage. This applies to incoming, outgoing and in-transit transportation of communications.

54. The FCC now reports a one hundred per cent censorship of all Japanese language broadcasts as well as the spot surveillance of all other foreign language broadcasts.

55. There has been discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications with German and Italian occupied countries.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

HHC:MET

December 12, 1941

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

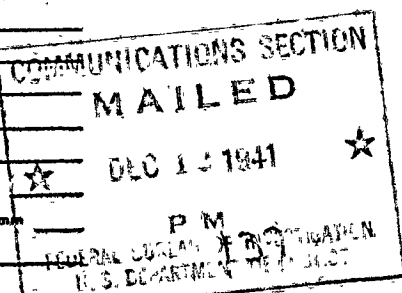
Mr. Frank Connolly  
Liaison Officer  
Priorities Division  
Office of Production Management  
462 Indiana Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Connolly:

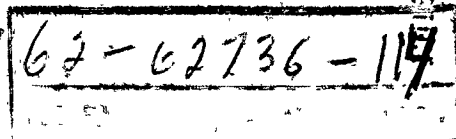
I have been directed by the President of the United States to take charge of censorship until further notice. International communications are now being censored. Major Corderman of the War Department has been designated by me to take charge of postal censorship. Captain Penn of the Navy Department has taken charge under my instructions of cable and radio communications. The necessity for action is urgent. Instructions for postal censorship were issued yesterday afternoon and operations will begin today.

Difficulties have already been encountered by representatives of the censorship establishment in New York in an effort to get necessary supplies. The general type of supplies which will be necessary are as follows: office equipment including desks, chairs, file cabinets, lamps, stationery, cards and similar office supplies. It is impossible at this time, I am quite sure you recognize, to get an itemized list of the exact equipment necessary as expansion will be rapid and needs will be modified as the problem increases.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
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U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

Mr. Frank Connolly  
Page 2

December 12, 1941

It will be appreciated, therefore, if you could take as prompt action as possible to make certain that priority is established on any orders received from the head of any censorship establishment anywhere in the United States or its possessions. If some sort of general instructions to this effect could be issued, it would expedite operations in this most important function.

Sincerely yours,

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



JEN:KSD

December 9, 1941

Personal and Confidential

Major General Edwin M. Watson  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

I am attaching hereto, for the information of the President and you, a copy of a memorandum covering the steps which I have taken under the temporary designation to handle censorship matters until the President finally designates a Director of Censorship. I thought the President and you would be interested in this program to date.

Sincerely yours

J. Edgar Hoover

32060

Inclosure

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

A portion of info this serial declassified for use in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead. See 62-62736-115X for details.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ DEC 9 1941 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-62736-115
DEC 10 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 1942

December 8, 1941

IN RE: CENSORSHIP

In response to the President's directive of December 8th designating me to take charge of the censorship arrangements pending such further measures as the President shall take, I today called a meeting of representatives of the various Governmental agencies most vitally interested in this problem. Those present were Mr. Gordon of the State Department; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston, and Mr. Cairns of the Treasury Department; General Miles, in charge of the Military Intelligence Division; Major Corderman of Military Intelligence, and in charge of the censorship work of the War Department; Mr. Ironsides of the Post Office Department; Captain Wilkinson in charge of the Office of Naval Intelligence; Captain Fenn, Office of Naval Intelligence and in charge of the Navy censorship work; Mr. Lachleish in charge of the Office of Facts and Figures; Mr. Jett and Mr. Harris of the Federal Communications Commission; and Mr. Tamm and Mr. Clegg, Assistant Directors of the FBI.

Subjects of Discussion

I informed the Committee of the following developments:

1. The President's directive relative to the current handling of censorship matters.
2. I advised those present of the fact that at the request of the Cabinet Committee, the FBI had conducted a survey of existing censorship practices and censorship plans for the purpose of determining:
  - (a) The present practices
  - (b) The authority for the present practices
  - (c) The principles of selectivity applied to determine what communications would be censored

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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(d) The names of the various departments and agencies. I pointed out that this survey of course had been recently completed but of course had been conducted at a time when the country was at peace rather than at war. There is attached hereto for ready reference a copy of the report submitted by the FBI upon the survey made.

3. I announced that there was no intention or desire at the present time of interfering with any of the present facilities or plans and programs that were in actual operation dealing with censorship. I stated that it was particularly desirable to utilize for the present, until the President had established a permanent censorship program, all of the present machinery in force and operation.

ENCLOSURE

62-117-115

4. I stated that the two things which I was desirous of accomplishing were, first, an immediate "clearing pool" through which would flow the information concerning exactly what was being done and was proposed to be done. I stated that this would prevent duplication and overlapping and at the same time would insure the proper distribution of material and information obtained through any activity of censorship to the interested agencies. I stated that my second objective was to endeavor to set down certain basic policies and principles of a sound and safe, but at the same time liberal character, upon which the censorship program might be based. I pointed out that notwithstanding the present designation by the President of me to handle the arrangements for censorship was a temporary designation, I felt it essential to build upon a sound foundation so that when the permanent censorship organization is designated, there will be no need to revamp or to materially change the procedure now in operation or initiated at this time.
5. In order to accomplish the two objectives designated above, I appointed two Committees: (1) An organizational committee, which was to meet immediately to handle the emergency problems arising from the current activity of censorship and to set up the actual "pool" operation so as to have a smooth-flowing activity in censorship. This committee will consist of Assistant Director Clegg of the FBI as Chairman; Major Corderman of the War Department; Captain Fern of the Navy Department; and Mr. Jett of the Federal Communications Commission. (2) I designated another committee to be known as the Policy and Principles Committee, to consider the formulation of certain basic policies and principles. This committee is to be headed by Mr. MacLeish of the Office of Facts and Figures, and serving with him upon it will be General Miles of Military Intelligence; Captain Wilkinson of Naval Intelligence and myself, of the FBI.

As indicated, both of these committees are meeting at once.

6. At the meeting of the group today there was presented the proposed draft of legislation which has been prepared for introduction in Congress, formally authorizing and setting up a censorship program. It was the expressed consensus of opinion of the several representatives present at the meeting today that the proposed legislation was not as broad as it should be. It was felt that the legislation should be applicable to both wartime and national emergency conditions, and particularly should not be restricted solely to international communications, as expressed and defined in the proposed bill, but that there should be granted to the President the power and discretion, whenever he deemed it necessary, to extend the jurisdiction of censorship as emergency conditions might indicate. With these expressed observations, the representatives of the Treasury, War, Post Office and Navy Departments initialled the proposed bill as an indication of their approval.
7. The representatives of the Treasury Department pointed out that under the provisions of the Trading With the Enemy Act of 1917, the President had delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury:
  - (a) Right to censor all tangible communications except the mails, which power the Secretary of the Treasury desired to retain.
  - (b) All forms of communications with the enemy and allies of the enemy, which functions the Secretary of the Treasury desired to delegate. I stated with regard to the latter desire of the Treasury Department that that involved

a basic matter of procedure which I would refer to the Attorney General for consideration as it was my desire at this time not to interrupt any of the present set-up or procedure in view of the temporary character of the censorship program now in operation.

8. Representatives of the Federal Communications Commission indicated that the present prohibition against the intercepting of messages as set forth in Section 605 of the Federal Communications Act would need amending and that Section 606 of the same act listed war powers of the President, which does not include communications in the common carrier field. I stated that both of these matters would be referred to the Attorney General so that appropriate attention could be given to obtaining legislative correction of these restrictions.
9. The following immediate problems were brought up by the various interested agencies:
  - (a) The program for censorship along the Mexican border.
  - (b) The determination of what mail was to be physically stopped and at what points the mail was to be held, as well as the length of time which would be reasonable for holding the mail.
  - (c) The problems of personal communications between individuals in the United States, by radio or cable, and individuals in Germany and Italy.

These matters were referred to the Operations Committee and are being cleared by this technical group.

10. I suggested that thought be given to the problem of obtaining voluntary and cooperative self-censorship by the press and the radio, as I believed that without public support of whatever program is adopted in censorship, the program would not be a success and that the first approach to obtain a public support of the same would be to enlist the cooperation and assistance of the press and radio in two manners: First, advisory capacity, and secondly, a self-imposed censorship by them of their activities. This discussion relative to the press and radio was entirely informal and merely brought up for the purpose of giving some thought to it in the event some definite action becomes necessary. The subject itself had been referred to the Committee on Basic Principles and Policies, which will submit certain recommendations for consideration.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
presented for study and consideration the attached two charts which had been prepared in the FBI. The first chart outlines the general organization for censorship and the second chart outlines a more detailed set-up. These charts are receiving the immediate study of the Committee on Organization and will be reported upon with their recommendations within the next twenty-four hours.

12. There are set forth herewith certain specific actions which have been taken, from which it is noted some of the action which has been taken is of a nature which does not fall strictly within the scope of censorship, but which in part at

Mr. Carson  
Mr. Grayson  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan

least has effected.

- (a) Instructions have been issued to all air lines to decline to carry any Japanese aboard any of the commercial air lines until further advice from the FBI.
- (b) Instructions have been issued to all air lines to refuse to carry any air express either from or to any Japanese. The precautions taken in this matter and the one preceding were in an effort to prevent the consummation of any sabotage by any air traveller or through any air express packages which might be shipped.
- (c) Instructions have been issued to stop all press service to China and Japan.
- (d) Instructions have been issued to stop all overseas telephone communications in or out of the United States to any country.
- (e) Instructions have been issued to prevent the departure of any Japanese from the District of Columbia.
- (f) Instructions have been issued to all telephone companies to stop all communications by Japanese to any point outside the continental United States, this to include communications, whether by Japanese diplomatic officials or civilians.

As a result of the Organizational Committee today, further implementing of censorship will immediately take place within the provisions of the laws as they now exist.

#### Recommendations

- 1. It is recommended that legislation for the authorization for censorship by sought from Congress immediately.
- 2. It is recommended that a permanent Director of Censorship be promptly designated and that he be a civilian, preferably, with newspaper experience and very definitely with executive capacity.
- 3. It is recommended that an Interdepartmental Advisory Board be designated to serve as consultants and advisors in censorship planning and any censorship program which is inaugurated. This Interdepartmental Advisory Board should be made up of one representative from each of the following departments and agencies of the Government:

State Department  
Treasury Department  
War Department  
Justice Department  
Post Office Department  
Navy Department  
Commerce Department  
Federal Communications Commission  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Foreign Funds Control  
United States Maritime Commission

Military Intelligence  
Naval Intelligence  
Library of Congress  
Export Control  
Economic Warfare establishment  
Coordinator of Information  
Office of Facts and Figures

and any other Government agency which it is believed would be served by or could be useful to the censorship organization.

This Interdepartmental Advisory Board should begin functioning promptly in the planning program.

4. The following general policies are recommended:

- A. Censorship should apply to international communications, with authority for expansion given to the President. International communications should include not only communications of a strictly international character but also communications between ship and ship; between ship and shore; between continental United States and its possessions and territories; and between one possession or territory and another possession or territory of the United States.
- B. There should be no restrictions or limitations placed upon the President in selecting the Director of Censorship or any of the assistants or any of the subordinate personnel of the censorship organization.
- C. The Director of Censorship and the censorship organization should be under no existing governmental agency and should be free from the control of the Military, Naval or any existing civilian establishments inasmuch as many government departments will be "customers" of the censorship organization, and no customer should control the administration of the organization. Experience in [ ] has proven particularly that it should be free from Military and Naval control.
- D. The Interdepartmental Advisory Board should serve the purpose of coordination; will automatically establish a liaison relationship between censorship and the various Federal agencies; will make, receive and analyze complaints and will make recommendations to the Director of Censorship and, when deemed necessary or advisable, to the President of the United States. This Advisory Board will have no power or control otherwise over the censorship establishment, and any change in administration, organization, policy or personnel will be left exclusively with the Director of Censorship and with the President of the United States.

- E. All censorship should be under the administrative and operational jurisdiction of the Director of Censorship. This includes censorship of the following types:

Postal  
Telegraph, land-wire and radio  
Telephone  
Cable  
Radiotelephony  
Travelers  
Air Express  
Freight  
Express  
Carrier Pigeon

Communications to and from prisoners of war  
Radio broadcasts, except that the Federal Communications Commission should be delegated by the Director of Censorship with the operational functions of censorship, surveilling, monitoring and patrolling of radio broadcasts, but the administrative control and powers of enforcement of instructions are to rest with the Director of Censorship. The Director of Censorship may obtain such assistance as necessary or desired from other existing agencies.

Illicit radio stations - The administrative control and powers of enforcement of restrictions are to rest with the Director of Censorship who will designate the Federal Communications Commission as an operational agency to patrol, monitor, surveill and censor communications to and from illicit radio stations. Authority for monitoring and surveilling illicit radio stations which are at present within the functions of other governmental agencies and establishments are to remain with and under the control of those agencies and establishments where necessary to complete their normal operations and investigative jurisdiction.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. It is recommended that a representative from each of the principal news agencies, wire services, press syndicates and national radio broadcasting companies be designated to serve in an advisory capacity in establishing a voluntary newspaper and radio censorship. This group of representatives should confer with Military, Naval and intelligence agencies of the Government with a view to seeking advice and information as to the types of information which could and should, as a matter of policy, be permitted.

- 7 -

A further report will be made immediately upon the conclusion of consideration of some of the pending emergency problems that are being considered by the Committee on Organization, as well as the Committee on Basic Principles and Policies.

Respectfully submitted,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Attachments:



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : For the File

DATE: November 28, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: *Censorship of Cables.*

2B  
There are attached hereto pages 184, 185 of "The FBI Story, A Report to the People" by Don Whitehead, which contain data taken from Bureau file 62-62736-115.

The information from the file was personally reviewed and declassified by me prior to the author's use of it in the preparation of the book and the clearance procedures followed in the book were approved by the Attorney General by appropriate notation on the Bureau memorandum of July 20, 1956, outlining procedures to be followed. (62-102693-90). The declassified data has been underlined in red on the attached excerpts.

For complete information concerning data declassified in "The FBI Story," see 62-102693- 356

Enclosure

FCS:pwl

ENCLOSURE

62-62736-115X

NOT RECORDED

2 MAR 6 1957

MAR 20 8 1957

CRIM. DIV.  
MAR 20 1957

On Monday, December 8, Hoover called a conference of representatives from the State, Post Office, Treasury, and War Departments, the Navy, the Federal Communications Commission and the Office of Facts and Figures, and laid his plan before the group. The Treasury representative raised an objection. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, he said, wanted to retain the right "to censor all tangible communications except the mails." The argument for placing this authority with the Treasury was that President Wilson, in World War I, had delegated the power of censorship to his Secretary of the Treasury.

But Hoover objected to this proposal. He suggested that thought should be given "to the problem of obtaining voluntary and co-operative self-censorship by the press and radio . . ." He said that in his opinion no censorship program would succeed without public support—and that this support could best be gained by enlisting the help of the press and radio in an advisory capacity.

Hoover won backing for his position and the group's policy committee approved a recommendation saying:

The Director of Censorship and the censorship organization should be under no existing governmental agency and should be free from the control of the Military, Naval or any existing civilian establishments inasmuch as many government departments will be "customers" of the censorship organization, and no customer should control the administration of the organization. Experience in [ ] has proved particularly that it should be free from Military and Naval control.

The conference also approved Hoover's suggestion that the Director of Censorship should be a newspaper executive. It was recommended that "a permanent Director of Censorship be promptly designated and that he be a civilian, preferably, with newspaper experience and very definitely with executive capacity."

Excerpt from pages 184, 185  
of "The FBI Story, A Report  
to the People" by Don Whitehead

ENCLOSURE

62-62736-115X

JFH:KCB

December 9, 1941

Personal and Confidential

58154

Honorable Frank C. Walker  
Postmaster General  
Post Office Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Walker:

I am attaching hereto, for your information, a copy of a memorandum covering the steps which I have taken under the temporary designation to handle censorship matters until the President finally designates a Director of Censorship. I thought you would be interested in this program to date.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Inclosure

A portion of info this serial declassified for use in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead. See 62-62736-115X for details.

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

1 ENCL

112-page memorandum dated December 8, 1941

RECORDED

62-62736-116
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
32061
DEC 10 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ DEC 9 1941 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

137

J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

JKM: BK

December 8, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

This is in further reference to the subject matter of my memorandum earlier today in which I outlined the developments at a conference in Colonel Donovan's office this morning with Mr. Nelson Poynter and Mr. Nathan David, relative to short-wave broadcasting.

Pursuant to your instructions, I attended the conference at 3:00 P.M. Those present were Nelson Poynter and Nathan David of Colonel Donovan's organization, Frank Jamison and Walter Harrison from the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Michael McDermott who was in charge of press releases at the State Department, Colonel Percy Black of MID, Colonel Heard from the Public Relations Division of the War Department, and Captain Denebrink of the Navy Department who was assigned as liaison man with Colonel Donovan's office.

It should be pointed out in the beginning that this conference was chaotic to say the least, and the representatives of the armed services were at complete variance with the representatives of the other two agencies in so far as their objective was concerned. Colonel Black, who was apparently the senior delegate from the War Department, industriously took notes for the first few minutes and then devoted himself to making pencil sketches of the others at the table. Colonel Heard, from the inane remarks he made near the termination of the conference after having sat in silence theretofore, obviously had no conception of the problems involved. It was apparent that it was never realized by the various representatives present that the matter was being considered from two widely separated angles. The representatives of the War and Navy Departments were obviously thinking of the matter solely in the negative light of censorship; that is, forbidding the transmission of information; whereas, the representatives of the Rockefeller and Donovan organizations were approaching the problem from the positive angle of controlling the dissemination of propaganda.

RECORDED & INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/86 BY [redacted]  
# 2710481 # 271049

62-62736-117  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 DEC 12 1941  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6  
b7c

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As soon as the representatives of the various organizations had gathered and before the conference started, Mr. Poynter explained to the others that the writer had called at his office in the morning at which time it had been proposed that the FBI investigate the "key personnel" of the various short-wave broadcasting companies, and that surveys be made and appropriate recommendations resulting therefrom be furnished the company for physical protection of their facilities. He inquired if any of the others had any suggestions in that regard or proposals to the contrary. When none were forthcoming, he inquired of the writer as to whether the FBI would undertake the necessary investigations, and I advised him that his suggestions had been submitted to the Director and that the Director had advised that the FBI would conduct the investigations on the understanding that there would be a maximum of approximately 350 individuals and some 10 broadcasting transmitters. I later informed Mr. Poynter and Mr. David that it would further be necessary that they transmit to the Director a written request for these investigations, outlining in detail what was desired and submitting complete data with regard to the individuals as well as the facilities to be surveyed.

I explained to them that the Bureau's investigations would be made for the Coordinator of Information and not for the private organizations and that the findings would be submitted to the Coordinator of Information for such consideration as was deemed advisable insofar as any recommendations or action resulting therefrom is concerned.

The conference opened with an explanation by Nelson Poynter that pursuant to Colonel Donovan's agreement with the War, Navy and State Departments and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the conference was called to prepare a "blue print" for censorship of short-wave radio transmission from the United States to foreign listeners. He first proposed a plan for approval whereby the short-wave sending facilities would be consolidated into three groups: NBC, CBS and one other to be made up of the three independent broadcasters who are Crosley of Cincinnati, GE of Schenectady, and WRUL of Boston. These groups would then be instructed that they would have to maintain their news rooms in New York only, so that material could be supervised at one central point even though it was recognized that this

*Handwritten notes in left margin:*  
 \* National Broadcasting  
 & Columbia Broadcasting  
 Radio Station WNYC  
 Company  
 System  
 Electrical

would necessitate considerable added expense to them in the leasing of facilities to their studios and transmitters.

The second point introduced by Mr. Poynter was the question of actual operation of the censorship. He suggested two methods. His first suggestion was that the three broadcasting groups would restrict their source of material to that secured from the recognized news services, the releases of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the releases of the Coordinator of Information, and that the scripts prepared from the material received from these three sources would then be presented for censorship before being broadcast.

His alternate suggestion was that the Office of the Coordinator of Information set up a staff to collect the information from the news services and itself prepare the scripts from those services and from its own information, and that such scripts along with those prepared by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs then be approved by the professional censor and furnished to the broadcasting companies. He stated that he preferred the first proposal as it would tend to maintain the individuality of the broadcasting groups and would also put the burden of the work on them rather than on the Office of the Coordinator of Information.

There was much discussion, particularly between Mr. Poynter and Mr. Jamison, of these proposals and the advisability of grouping the broadcasters as indicated above, and it was apparent from the discussion that they had no thought of censorship other than of their own propaganda material. Colonel Black and Mr. McDermott of the State Department made inquiries about the other programs, musical and otherwise, which would go out over the stations, which were more or less dismissed by Mr. Poynter's comments that they could very easily be monitored by requiring that all programs other than the news scripts referred to above, be recorded and submitted for approval and then broadcast from the recordings.

Captain Denebrink took no part in the discussion for quite some time, in fact until after the representatives of Mr. Rockefeller's and Colonel Donovan's offices had practically settled the matter in their own minds as outlined above. Captain Denebrink then in decidedly

sarcastic and profane language, wanted to know when they were going to discuss censorship and when they were going to start bringing up the subject of medium and long-wave broadcasters. His questions took Mr. Poynter decidedly aback, and he remarked that they felt the program they were outlining took care of the situation. Captain Denebrink then pointed out that by law the Navy Department is specifically charged with and is responsible for censorship of all communication media to points outside of the United States, that it was his definite understanding that Colonel Donovan had called upon the Navy Department and requested that he be permitted to take over this censorship function with regard to radio transmission, and that the Navy had agreed to let Colonel Donovan's organization "horn in" with the understanding that there was going to be actual censorship and that it was going to apply to short, medium and long-wave radio. Colonel Black stated that he had the same understanding from his superiors at the War Department. Mr. Poynter was considerably confused and at this point, Colonel Heard contributed about his only statement at the conference when he remarked that he saw no reason for the conference if the Navy Department were the one charged with the responsibility; that in his opinion the obvious solution was to have the Navy Department assign censors to the studios of each broadcaster and let that be the solution to the entire matter. Mr. Poynter immediately pointed out that that would be no solution to the problem in so far as the Coordinator of Information and the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs were concerned as it made no provision for their releases since the censor at the individual broadcasting studios might kill an item which they desired be broadcast for propaganda purposes.

After some further rather vitriolic remarks by Captain Denebrink to the effect that the representatives of the Office of the Coordinator of Information and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs were "chasing fairies", that they still did not have in their heads that this country was at war, and that what the Navy Department expected and was responsible for was censorship, He stated that it would be incumbent on him to report to his superiors at the Navy Department that whereas they had understood that Colonel Donovan's organization was going to take over censorship, as a matter of fact his intentions appeared only to have control of the programs and news to go out over short wave and there was no provision being made for censorship or monitoring medium-wave or long-wave transmission.

At the conclusion Mr. Poynter in an effort to maintain some control of the matter, asked if there would be any objection if, pursuant to the "discussion and agreement" of the conference, he should immediately get in touch with CBS and NBC, the two large, established organizations, and institute arrangements for having them each set up one central news room in New York, and if he contacted the other three short-wave broadcasters, i.e., Crosley, GE and WRUL, to have them make arrangements for a conference. There was no objection to this and he said it would be done immediately after the meeting adjourned. It should be noted, however, that there was some discussion, particularly by Mr. McDermott of the State Department, as to whether the three independents would agree to being lumped together and there was no way of determining whether Mr. Poynter still had in mind grouping them together under one news room; or whether, as was suggested, he intended advising them that they would have to discontinue news broadcasts until such time as they themselves worked out an acceptable third organization.

The following side issues came up during the discussion which may be of interest and possibly of future reference use to the Bureau. It appears that the Offices of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and of the Coordinator of Information were considerably disturbed that the first instance of short-wave radio broadcasting control which arose on the West Coast Sunday evening, December 7, 1941, at which time the Navy made no effort to be selective concerning the information to be broadcast, but merely to shut the station down and instruct it to stay off the air until given other orders. Mr. McDermott of the State Department joined the representatives of  and C.O.I. in criticizing this action in that it failed to recognize the propaganda value of broadcasting.

b7E

Another matter that came up was the suggestion of Mr. Poynter that the Navy Department assign to the Office of the Coordinator of Information a "professional censor" to work with the staff which prepares the scripts which are furnished to the short-wave radio stations to be sent to foreign countries. Mr. Jamison of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs made the same request. Captain Denebrink stated although that would serve the necessity of censoring such material at the broadcasting studios, he doubted that the volume of script would justify the time of the censor for purely censorship purposes. Mr. Poynter pointed out that such an arrangement would



Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

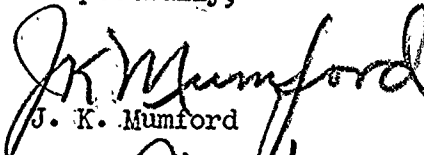

- 6 -

eventually be worthwhile as it would serve ~~as~~ an educational purpose in training the staff of his office and Mr. Rockefeller's office in what could and what could not be sent, and eventually they would get the "feel" of the matter so that they would not insert items which would have to be returned. No decision was reached in this matter.

At one point near the end of the conference when Captain Denebrink was criticizing the entire project and after Colonel Heard had suggested that the entire conference be forgotten and the Navy Department merely place a censor at each point of broadcast, Nelson Poynter and Michael McDermott of the State Department brought up the point that the local censor might kill a text or item which was particularly desirable from a propaganda standpoint. It was also pointed out that a White House release might contain information which the local censor would not approve, whereas obviously no one "would or should" take it upon themselves to censor anything released by the White House for the President.

Some discussion was then carried on to the effect that what should be done was to set up a board which would meet as frequently as necessary at the Office of the Coordinator of Information to pass on all releases emanating from the White House, the Coordinator of Information or the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and that if a text were approved by that board, it would be so designated and could not then be killed by a censor.

Respectfully,

  
J. K. Mumford  


J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR



RPK:ECR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

December 8, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

With reference to the conversation yesterday with Colonel Donovan during which he requested that a representative of the Bureau attend a meeting at his office this morning to discuss the short-wave radio situation, Supervisor J. K. Mumford attended a meeting in the office of Mr. Nelson Poynter this morning and there is attached a memorandum outlining the results of the conference. Mr. Mumford will attend a second conference this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in accordance with Colonel Donovan's request and will at that time be called upon to advise as to the Bureau's decision on the following requests:

Briefly the Office of the Coordinator of Information desires that the Bureau conduct a physical survey similar to our plant survey of approximately ten short-wave broadcasting stations. These stations are privately owned by NBC, CBS, and other companies and will be operated by the private companies under the direction and supervision of the Office of the Coordinator of Information.

It is also desired that the Bureau conduct investigations of approximately 350 "key employees" of these private companies who will be acting in connection with the broadcasts supervised by Donovan's Office. The purpose of these investigations will be to determine whether any of these employees are possessed of subversive tendencies or are believed to be disposed to act in a manner inimical to the best interests of the United States.

Colonel Donovan's Office desires a reply by this afternoon as to the Bureau's decision with regard to the above, and it is recommended that the Bureau agree to conduct the surveys and to make the personnel investigations in line with Colonel Donovan's request. Mr. Mumford will attend the conference this afternoon and subject to your approval will advise Colonel Donovan's Office that the Bureau will undertake the surveys and the personnel investigations.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Respectfully,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 12 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/24/86 BY [redacted]

#271048 / #271049

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Authorized to forward  
as requested formally

mommy Todd  
12-8-41  
J. J. Ladd

DEC 30 1941  
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DEC 8 5 51 PM '41

copy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Re: Control and Censorship of Communications.

Various departments and agencies of the Government are now engaged in control and censorship in different fields of communications. The President, on December 8, 1941, directed J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to take charge of all censorship arrangements for the time being. There is attached a report of Mr. Hoover, showing what is now being done as of this morning, December 12, 1941, with respect to the control and censorship of communications by the several agencies.

The present control and censorship relates only to communications from and to the United States and its possessions.

Due to the confusion, legal questions, and inefficiency, which at present will result from transferring the personnel engaged in these controls to one separate agency, it is recommended that all these current activities as to control and censorship of communications be continued as at the present.

The matter of censorship of the mails is now the largest problem because of the huge volume of incoming, outgoing, and transit mail. All incoming, outgoing, and transit mail from, to, and of, Axis countries is suspended and under control. The Army has supervisors in the field and is perfecting plans for the censorship of

As a temporary measure of cooperation the Post Office Inspection Service in each of the places selected by the Army for censorship operations is cooperating in obtaining space and providing temporary

postal personnel to censor the mail. However, the mail cannot be immediately handled because of the volume and the lack of organization to handle it. Wherever possible, mail is being re-routed through  censorship, and the mail to other particular places and persons is being currently controlled. Thus the largest immediate problem is the organization necessary to censor the great volume of unsuspected incoming, outgoing, and transit mail.

b7D

With regard to the mails, it is recommended that the facilities and trained censorship personnel of the Army be utilized to the extent available, and that sufficient personnel be built up as soon as possible to handle censorship of the mails without necessarily limiting it to Army personnel.

It is recommended that as promptly as possible the President appoint a Coordinator or Administrator to be responsible for the coordination, improvement, and integration of the various activities referred to. Such person should be a civilian. Until the appointment of such a person the coordination of this work should be continued through Mr. Hoover.

Upon the appointment of a permanent Coordinator or Administrator, it is recommended that an Inter-Departmental Advisory Board be designated by the President, under the Chairmanship of such Coordinator or Administrator, as consultants and advisors in censorship planning and operations, with one representative from each of the following Departments and Agencies of the Government:

State Department  
Treasury Department  
War Department  
Justice Department  
Post Office Department  
Navy Department  
Commerce Department  
Federal Communications Commission  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Foreign Funds Control  
U. S. Maritime Commission  
Military Intelligence  
Naval Intelligence  
Library of Congress  
Coordinator of Information  
Office of Government Reports  
Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs  
Federal Loan Agency  
Economic Defense Board.

Until such Coordinator or Administrator is appointed, it is recommended that the Army and Navy, to the extent that they are operating with respect to censorship, should engage in the fullest liaison and cooperation with the agencies having direct need for censorship service, which is not limited, of course, to the prevention of injurious communications but to the gathering of information needed by the Government in general in the prosecution of the war and enforcement of the law.

Furthermore, every immediately available trained censorship person in the Army and Navy ready for the work and actually engaged in it should be continued and the policy of the Army and Navy in respect of personnel for this work should not be fixed in any way which would limit the personnel to those in the Military and Naval services.

JSH:ECB

December 12, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CDE73

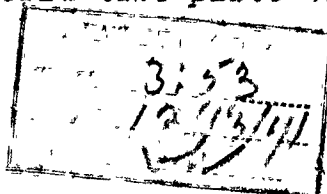
There was a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Censorship this morning, presided over by the Postmaster General, and attended by the Postmaster General; the Attorney General; Mr. Milo Perkins, of the Economic Defense Board; Mr. Archibald MacLetch, Office of Facts and Figures; Mr. Lowell Kellett, Office of Government Reports; Mr. Ironsides, the Postmaster General's Office; and myself.

I was called upon to make a report upon the status of the censorship project. I outlined the steps taken since I was designated last Sunday to serve as coordinator of censorship arrangements. I outlined briefly the various meetings held; the agreements reached; and the coverage which was now in operation.

Mr. Kellett, of the Office of Government Reports, then submitted the attached proposed memorandum for the President, which had been drafted by him. There was considerable discussion about this report and the form it should take, and it was finally agreed that the Postmaster General and the Attorney General should submit a shorter report, recommending in substance that there be designated a Director of Censorship, with a Committee on Policy to consist of as small a number of representatives of the Government as possible, and a Committee on Operations, upon which would be representatives of all Government agencies having interest in the censorship project. RECORDED & INDEXED

Discussion was then had as to a name to present to the President for designation as Director of Censorship, and it was the unanimous opinion of all present that Mr. Byrd Price, the present Vice President of the Associated Press, would be a very desirable person to be so designated in view of his position, experience, his executive ability, and his personality.

I then mentioned the fact that funds would have to be made available immediately for the Army to start operation of the postal censorship. The Postmaster General directed me to have this matter taken up with the Budget Bureau through the War Department to arrange for funds to be made available as it was believed that no delay should take place in regard to the initiation of this project.



Mr. Clegg

- 2 -

12-12-41

Upon my return to the office I advised you of the matter of the War Department funds and the steps you should take with Major Gorderman to obtain such funds with which to start the War Department censorship of mail matters.

Very truly yours

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Attachment

JEH:CJ

December 13, 1941

TIME: 10:35 A. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. TAMM  
MR. LADD  
MR. CLEGG

At this time Mr. Archibald MacLachlan advised me that he has had several inquiries, the last one being from Congressman James A. Shanley, regarding foreign language press and domestic radio censorship. Mr. MacLachlan said he told Congressman Shanley to get in touch with me; that he was certain there are no plans whatever for domestic censorship in this country at the present time and that as far as he knows there is no endeavor to interfere with foreign language on the radio. I told Mr. MacLachlan that I was very glad to know about this because it is the policy we are very definitely following.

I advised him that the White House got in touch with me yesterday about the Drew Pearson and Allen column; that I conferred with the War and Navy to be certain that, from a military point of view, they thought it should not be done; and that I called Pearson and Allen to ask them not to have the matter carried in their column, to which they agreed. They wanted to know whether it was domestic censorship, to which I replied in the negative, but told them that there would be some very shortly a Director of Censorship and policy and procedure would have to be worked out then.

Mr. MacLachlan said that in the meantime he is attempting to set up some sort of network through an organization in New York by which useful material may be put into foreign language broadcasts. I told him that this is a very good idea and that I thought it very necessary to have some positive action taken; that I understood from the Postmaster General that very likely Byron Price would be down today for a conference and that then we will know exactly what the setup is. I told him that if this matter is allowed to drag along for another week or two, he and I had better get together and do something definite.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED

SENT FROM D. O.

TIME 3:49

DATE 12/13/41

BY [Signature]

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

DEC 15 1941



JEH:DAJ

December 13, 1941

TIME: 1:05 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. TAMM  
MR. LADD  
MR. CLEGG

General Miles called this afternoon and stated that he had received my letter to him of December 11, 1941, regarding the conference of radio companies about the question of censorship of war operation news. General Miles indicated that he believed this question was a very important one and that the committee should probably have a meeting on this right away. I told him I had heard the Postmaster General was conferring with Byron Price today about his taking the position of Director of Censorship and I had wanted to delay any action on this until I learned whether Price would actually take the job; that if he were it would probably be best to leave this problem up to him. However, I stated to General Miles that if it began to appear this selection of a permanent Director of Censorship was going to be delayed, I was in favor of calling a meeting as soon as possible to go into the question of radio censorship.

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED 62-12736-120

General Miles asked if I didn't think Mr. MacLellan should be spurred along on calling this meeting. I said that I had talked to Mr. MacLellan yesterday and in view of the fact they were going to take up the problem of what the Government departments should and should not give out I thought perhaps we should wait a few days to see if a permanent Director of Censorship was to be appointed soon. I stated that yesterday it appeared the Director of Censorship was not going to be afforded the power of coordinating war releases, but that Mr. MacLellan would probably handle this. I said that in view of this I wished to avoid this difficulty and let it come up under the permanent Director of Censorship; that Mr. MacLellan desired to be more or less liberal on the releases and I was not of the same opinion; but that if General Miles felt something could be gained by a meeting I could have it called right away. General Miles stated that he felt a meeting should be called because there was a definite need for coordinating the information given out by reliable departments of the Government; that this should come under the duties of the Office of Facts and Figures; and that the War and Navy Department were feeling the effects at the present time of the lack of coordination. I told General Miles that I would contact Mr. MacLellan at once in order that a meeting might be called on this.

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Holloman

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

TIME

12-13-41

CES

Memo for Tolson, Tamm, Ladd &amp; Clegg

-8-

General Miles stated Colonel Black of his department had worked out some plans on censorship and propaganda. The General wished to know when Colonel Black should consult in regard to these plans. He said these plans were for the operational side of the censorship project. I told him this would come under the committee which Mr. Clegg and Major Corderman were on. General Miles stated he would get in touch with Major Corderman on this.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JEH:DAJ

December 12, 1961

58452

TIME: 4:50 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
 MR. TAMM  
 MR. LADD  
 MR. CLEGG

Colonel Donagan called to inquire how the censorship program was progressing. I told him that everything was going along very satisfactorily; that there has been perfect coordination from the Army, Navy and Post Office Departments; that there had been a little difficulty with the FCC, but it had been straightened out all right; and that everything now was bottled up on the international communications. I told him that there had been a meeting of the Cabinet this morning on censorship and I believed that as soon as the Censorship Bill had been passed by Congress the permanent Director of Censorship would be named. I told him that I was in favor of Byron Price, Vice President of the Associated Press, being appointed as head of the censorship.

I informed Colonel Donagan concerning the problem which also today is regard to Pearson and Allen publishing the details of the attack on Smith, and stated that I believed the article had been killed, but of course some unscrupulous editors over the country now know the facts and this might be injurious. I said that in my opinion there should not be a compulsory censorship of the press but that it should be voluntary.

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED

In discussing the censorship situation, I mentioned that the United Press/radio station receives short wave broadcasts from many; that there is no legislation in force at the present time prohibiting this; but that in turn the United Press takes this station and broadcasts it in the form of news summaries. Colonel Donagan stated that he had a method of dealing with this on that he is going to discuss with the President, this method to give these stations authoritative information to replace what they receive. I told him that the Associated Press is acting as a similar station, and I also informed him what they are about the short wave broadcasts. Colonel Donagan stated that news about to be broadcast in this country were concerned around it would be his plan to ask the stations to voluntarily the news for a day or two or else print some other copy in place of it. I told him in this regard that many newspaper men in the past have contended the public is entitled to the news no matter

3 51

1961 DEC 12

58453

Memo for Tolson, Tamm, Ladd &amp; Clegg -2-

what it might be. I stated that there were some Government officials who also believe that the public should be given the facts. I said that the policy which Churchill is following seemed to me to be a good one - that is, just let the public know the bad things that have happened, disclosing stinkings but not damage.

I stated to Colonel Donovan that it was my opinion the whole censorship picture should be given to the public so that they would know why certain information was being withheld; that the public should be taken into the confidence of the Government and told the reasons behind not publishing the casualty lists; that otherwise the public would be resentful. I said that a great number of the newspapers and magazines understand that to disclose such information is aiding the enemy, but that others do not look at the matter from this point of view at all but from the point of view of the public. I suggested to Donovan also that some of the information being disclosed might be due to personal feuds and jealousies.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JEM:JM

December 12, 1941

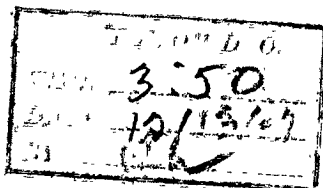
6:23 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. TAMM  
MR. LADD  
MR. CLEGG

I called the Attorney General and while discussing another subject, he advised me that the President approved the report on censorship and Postmaster General Walker is going to contact Byron Price this evening to determine if he is available to discuss the situation tomorrow.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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&  
INDEXED

61-12756-122

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3 DEC 15 1941

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DML:CSH

December 9, 1941

RECORDED

12-52731-123

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I desire to thank you for your memorandum of December 4th, transmitting a letter of December 3rd addressed to you by Mr. Frank C. Page of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, containing suggestions relative to the regulation of messages prior to M Day. The letter from Mr. Page is returned herewith.

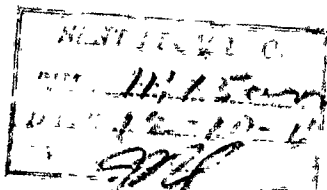
In view of the arrival of M Day, it would appear that no further action is necessary with reference to this suggestion.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



9 JAN 1 1942

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Dec 9 7 07 PM '41  
RECEIVED-ROOM 5640  
F B I  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Dec 9 7 36 PM '41



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

December 4, 1941.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Holloman.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

I thought you should see Frank Page's attached letter.

*[Signature]*  
Francis Biddle  
Attorney General.

*1 ENCL. 5*

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INDEXED

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*12/19/41*  
*62-736123*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
5 DEC 12 1941	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

*LABOR*  
*EVERETT*

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 1679  
El Paso, Texas  
December 11, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At 4:05 P. M., Sunday, December 7, 1941 Mr. CARSON of the Bureau telephoned to Special Agent A. R. GERE, who was acting in my absence, to contact all telegraph officials requesting the discontinuance of sending of all telegrams by Japanese.

Immediately arrangements were made by telephone with Mr. G. M. WESTERFELD, Superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company and Mr. CLAUDE E. ELLETT, City Superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company, to comply with the Bureau's instructions and they cheerfully expressed their willingness to cooperate in this regard.

Special Agent C. B. WINSTEAD, Resident Agent at Albuquerque, New Mexico, was also telephoned to communicate with the officials of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies at Albuquerque, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, advising them of the Bureau's desires in this matter.

After receipt of teletype from the Bureau at 9:52 P. M., December 7, 1941, directing that arrangements be made with appropriate communication companies to discontinue all Japanese communications of any type whatsoever, including telegrams, cablegrams, etc., destined to any point outside continental United States, the Western Union and Postal Telegraph officials at El Paso, Texas, Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, were appropriately advised by telephone that only telegrams addressed to points outside the mainland of the United States would be affected by the Bureau's instructions.

The telephone companies were also informed that telegrams or cablegrams signed by members of the Japanese Embassy or

3 JAN 3 1942

1942

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INDEXED

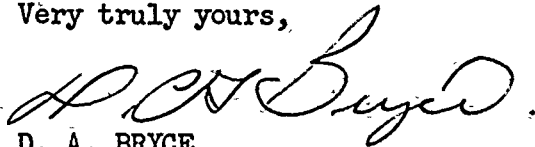
62-62736-124  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
1 DEC 15 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
LADD  
CARSON  
FOW



Page -2- Letter to the Director,  
From the SAC, El Paso,  
Dated 12-11-41

Japanese Consulate might be made if the official filing a  
message showed that same was filed as an official communica-  
tion relating to official business.

Very truly yours,



D. A. BRYCE  
Special Agent in Charge

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY  
ARG:bkn

November 19, 1941.

58450

My dear Mr. Postmaster General,

From the enclosed report from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation you will note that it is believed that a good deal of Air Mail is going from German agents in this country to agents operating in Mexico. Mr. Hoover suggests that a check on Air Mail leaving Los Angeles might indicate names of senders and addressees which would prove useful.

I suggest that before taking it up with you personally, the matter might be discussed between Mr. Hoover and someone in your Department, so that we may be more familiar with the circumstances. I should appreciate therefore if you would have someone get in touch directly with Mr. Hoover, so that both of them may make a report to us.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Biddle  
Attorney General.

The Honorable  
The Postmaster General  
Washington, D.C.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-27-79 BY [redacted]

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INDEXED

36-125

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b7c

FROM  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TO

Official indicated below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

58451

Solicitor General Fahy . . . . .	
Assistant to the Attorney General . . . . .	
Assistant Attorney General Arnold, Anti-Trust . . . . .	
Assistant Attorney General Clark, Tax . . . . .	
Assistant Attorney General Shea, Claims . . . . .	
Assistant Attorney General Littell, Lands . . . . .	
Assistant Attorney General Berge, Criminal . . . . .	
Assistant Solicitor General . . . . .	
Mr. Hoover, Director, FBI . . . . .	✓
Mr. Bennett, Director of Prisons . . . . .	
Mr. Schofield, Immigration and Naturalization . . . . .	
Judge Martin, Director, War Risk Bureau . . . . .	
Mr. Lawrence, Director, Bond and Spirits . . . . .	
Mr. Quinn, Administrative Assistant . . . . .	
Mr. Holtzoff, Special Assistant . . . . .	
Mr. Townsend, Special Assistant . . . . .	
Mr. Smith, Special Defense Unit . . . . .	
Mr. Lyons, Pardon Attorney . . . . .	
Mr. Palmer, Director of Personnel . . . . .	
Parole Board . . . . .	
Mr. Donaldson, Chief Clerk . . . . .	
Mrs. Plumley, Appointment Clerk . . . . .	
Mr. DiGirolamo, Division of Records . . . . .	
Mr. Adler, Division of Supplies . . . . .	
Mr. McKavitt, Librarian . . . . .	
Mr. Carusi . . . . .	
Mr. Gilfond . . . . .	
Miss Bell . . . . .	
Mrs. Johnson . . . . .	
Miss Lamke . . . . .	
Miss Coulson . . . . .	
Mr. Franke . . . . .	
Mr. Coffey . . . . .	

December 12, 1941

61369

Mr. Archibald MacLachlan  
Director  
Office of Facts and Figures  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. MacLachlan:

I have your note of December 11th with reference to your inquiry as to whether I believe your Sub-Committee should continue to hold meetings in view of the fact that the Postmaster General's Committee has taken up the censorship policy problem. In view of the fact that the appointment of a Director of Censorship is so imminent and the questions upon policies and principles will then be handled in line with the suggestion advanced by the Postmaster General's Committee, I do not believe it would be necessary for any further meeting of the Sub-Committee.

However, if for any reason there occurs any material delay in the designation of the Director of Censorship, I do believe then that there will be a number of principles and policies that will have to be acted upon and in that event I will get in touch with you and enlist your assistance and help through you and your Committee.

I do want to express my deep appreciation of the fine assistance and aid that you have already been in this very difficult project. I think that the tentative set of principles that were adopted was a real accomplishment, and I hope will prove invaluable in the final structure of the censorship project.

Sincerely yours,

Olson  
A. Tamm  
E. A. Tamm  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Tracy  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman  
Gandy

RECEIVED NOV 13 1941

32686

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

DEC 13 1941

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-23

DEC 12 1941

OFFICE OF FACTS AND FIGURES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

—  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

~~PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID~~  
~~PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.~~

BY DELIVERY

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF FACTS AND FIGURES  
WASHINGTON

THE DIRECTOR

December 12, 1941

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In view of the fact that Mr. Walker's Committee has picked up the censorship policy problem, do you think my Subcommittee should or should not continue to hold meetings? I ask this question solely for guidance. I am, as you know, at your disposition.

Faithfully yours,

Archibald MacLeish

Director, Office of Facts and Figures

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

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&  
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62-62736-127  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 16 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Censorship of Cables

DEC 8 1941

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

ATAAXX

ATLANTA GEORGIA

12-7-41

12-05 AM

FRH BG

DIRECTOR

RETEL THIS DATE REGARDING STEPS TO STOP ALL PRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO JAPAN, GERMANY, ITALY, FRANCE AND FINLAND. MR, E W LEWIS, SOUTHERN DIVISION MANAGER OF UNITED PRESS, MR. W J GOODE, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION MANAGER O INTERNATIONAL NEWS, MR. W F CALDWELL, SOUTHERN DISTRICT MANAGER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS ALL ADVISE NO PRESS COMMUNICATIONS FORWARDED FROM THIS DISTRICT TO FOREIGN COUNTRYX COUNTRIES. UNITED PRESS AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS ADVISE ONLY OUTLETS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES ARE NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO. ASSOCIATED PRESS CLAIMS FOREIGN NEWS DISPATCHED FROM WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK.

HAMMACK

ACK AND HOLD

OK FBI WASH ON

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62-62736-126  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
10 DEC 12 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

December 8, 1941  
10:50 A. M.

HMAK:LL

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

I called Mr. Fletcher Warren, State Department, and advised him the FBI had received a request from Western Union for a letter setting forth our desires with reference to stoppage of cablegrams, telephone calls, etc., and would, therefore, like to know if there has been any change in the State Department policy or if there are any late up-to-date developments the State Department might want to advise us concerning.

Mr. Warren said he had spoken to Mr. Rosen a few minutes ago in this regard. Mr. Warren stated that as he understands it the way the matter stands at the moment is that the Navy is responsible for oversea communications (that is across the Pacific and across the Atlantic), and that the Army is responsible for overland communications, according to what Mr. Rosen heard (that is communications between here and Mexico and between here and Canada). Mr. Warren stated that this is being followed out at the present time.

Mr. Warren advised that Mr. Berle had instructed Mr. Warren to tell Mr. Rosen that the FBI and the State Department acted yesterday (December 7th) to take care of the situation, but that now the other agencies of the Government are on the job, recognize their responsibility and are trying to do something about it, and that this takes the State Department and the FBI "out of the picture."

Mr. Warren requested that I make sure he had made the matter absolutely clear to Mr. Rosen, and I told him I would to this.

Respectfully,

*Harry M. Kimball*  
H. M. Kimball

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-62736-128	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
8 DEC 15 1941	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Tour Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*0 censorship of cable + Radio-Communications*



Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

February 4, 1942

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

BUREAU BULLETIN NO. 8  
First Series 1942

TO ALL SPECIAL AGENTS IN CHARGE:

The following observations, suggestions and instructions are submitted:

(A) LIAISON WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CENSOR. -- There has been established a Governmental agency designated as the Office of the Censor. This office, under the direction of Mr. Byron Price, is charged with responsibility for the censoring of international communications. It should be noted especially that at the present time, there is no censorship of domestic communications. International communications are those passing between the United States and a foreign country. Domestic communications are those which are sent from a point within the United States and received at a point within the United States without crossing an international border.

The existing censorship establishment acts through several divisions, namely:

1. The Postal Censorship. This establishment censors international mail communications. It is under the supervision of the Chief Postal Censor who is Major W. Preston Corderman of the War Department.
2. Radio and Cable Censorship. This establishment censors all international radio and cable communications, including international telephone. The radio and cable censorship is under the supervision of the Chief Cable Censor who is Captain H. K. Fenn of the Navy Department.
3. The Customs Service. The customs service of the Treasury Department is at the present and temporarily cooperating with the Office of the Censor by censoring international communications found in packages and shipments which pass through the customs at ports of entry. This applies also to communications carried on the persons of travelers entering or leaving the United States.

A list of the field stations operated by the Postal Censorship and by the Radio and Cable Censorship is being forwarded to Special Agents in Charge by a separate communication.

With reference to the activities of the censorship organization, the Bureau desires all Special Agents in Charge to observe the following instructions:

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Censorship

1. The Bureau should be able to obtain immediate and direct benefit from the results of censorship. The closest possible contact and personal relationship should be established with the heads of the local censorship stations. Through this means, each Special Agent in Charge should be able to obtain immediate notification concerning any communications passing through the local censorship stations which have an urgent nature or which have local interest to the field division. I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for such a relationship and the responsibility which must be assumed by each Special Agent in Charge to obtain information of interest to the FBI from the local censorship stations. Special Agents in Charge of field divisions covering local censorship stations should arrange with the local censorship stations so that censored communications of an urgent nature and of interest to other field offices will be submitted to the local field office for transmission to the interested field offices.

As an example of the manner in which censored communications of an urgent nature should be handled, the following instance is cited: The New York field station of the Postal Censorship observes a communication, the contents of which require that urgent investigative action be taken by the Baltimore Field Division.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT NEW YORK: The New York Office should have effected sufficiently close liaison with the postal censorship at New York so that this censored communication will be called immediately to the attention of the New York Office. The New York Office will then transmit the contents of the communication to the Baltimore Field Office for action.

As an example of the way in which a censored communication of strictly local interest to the New York Division should be handled, the following instance is cited: The New York Postal Censorship discovers a communication which contains matter not necessarily of an urgent nature but of strictly local interest to the New York Office.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: The New York Office should have in effect sufficiently close relationship with the postal censorship establishment so that this communication would be called promptly to the attention of the New York Office for appropriate action. Copies of such communications should not be forwarded to the Bureau unless some special reason therefor exists in a particular case.

2. Both radio and cable and postal censorship establishments state that arrangements have been made so that copies of all interesting and pertinent communications will be forwarded by the local censorship stations to the national censorship headquarters at Washington. Arrangements have been made at Washington by the FBI so that [REDACTED]



b7E

As an example of the manner in which censored communications not of an urgent or strictly local character should be handled, the following instance is cited: The New York Radio and Cable Censorship discovers a communication which the censorship feels is of interest to the FBI but not of local interest to the FBI office at New York. The message may be specifically of a routine character and of interest to the Baltimore Field Division. The message on the other hand, may not indicate that any particular field office would be interested, but the content may indicate general FBI interest.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: The Radio and Cable Censorship establishment at New York is under instructions from its Washington headquarters [redacted] to the Washington headquarters of the Radio and Cable Censorship. The Washington headquarters of the Radio and Cable Censorship will [redacted]

b7E

[redacted] and take any necessary action. It will be noted that no action is required in this respect on the part of the SAC at New York [redacted]



3. In cases requiring immediate action, field offices may request local censorship stations to place names on local censorship station watch lists. The Bureau should be informed immediately of such action, of the exact names and addresses placed on the lists, and the duration of the watch requested. The Bureau likewise should be notified when a request is made that such watch be cancelled. It should be noted that unless the Bureau is notified by field offices complete coverage is not provided inasmuch as international mail, cables, radiograms, or telephone conversations coming into or going out of the United States through other local censorship stations will not be covered. For example, if the New York Office requests the local Postal Censorship to place the name of a suspect on the watch list of the New York Postal Censorship station, this action will be effective only insofar as international communications passing through New York are concerned. Communications addressed to the suspect or sent by him and routed into the United States or out of the United States through Miami would not be caught by the postal censorship at Miami for the reason that the name of the suspect would appear only on the watch lists at New York. Accordingly, the Bureau should be notified immediately and if necessary by teletype in such cases so that national coverage may be requested of the censorship headquarters at Washington.

In cases not requiring urgent action, field offices should always ask that names and addresses be placed on the watch lists through

FBI headquarters at Washington. Such requests should be made to the Bureau by letter and should include the exact names and addresses and the duration of the watch desired. Field offices should notify the Bureau promptly when it is desired that a watch be cancelled.

4. The Bureau has observed that local censorship stations have frequently called upon field offices for a check of the local FBI files. Arrangements have been made with censorship headquarters at Washington so that local censorship stations will be informed that such checks of local FBI files do not provide complete coverage of the information in possession of the FBI, and that complete coverage can be obtained only by a check of the FBI files at Washington. Special Agents in Charge should make certain that this matter is thoroughly understood by the heads of local censorship stations so that when a complete check of the FBI files is desired, a request may be forwarded by the local censorship station to the censorship headquarters at Washington which will then present the inquiry to FBI headquarters at Washington. These instructions are not to be construed as prohibiting local field offices from furnishing pertinent information to local censorship stations and such cooperation should be afforded to the local censorship stations as is possible with the understanding, of course, that the field office files are not necessarily complete from the national standpoint. For example, if the New York Postal Censorship requests the New York office of the FBI to furnish information concerning the sender of a suspected communication, the New York office may furnish the information which is in the New York office files, but in furnishing this information should have it clearly understood with the censorship establishment that the information is not necessarily complete.

5. The Bureau has observed that field offices have been requested to conduct investigations with respect to the sender or addressee of suspected communications. The Bureau desires that no change be made in the presently established policy with respect to the evaluation of complaints. Requests received from local censorship stations for investigations should be evaluated and investigations conducted only when there appear to be sufficient grounds to justify investigation.

There are also attached two lists of abbreviations used by the Radio and Cable Censorship.

The attention of all Special Agents in Charge is called to the fact that the censorship of international communications provides a source of leads which can be of inestimable value. Every effort should be made to take advantage of this source of information.

2-4-42

BUREAU BULLETIN NO. 8

First Series 1942

- 5 -

Abbreviations Used in Communications Censored by Radio  
and Cable Censorship - Navy 1/16/42

BE ACCURATE - BE BRIEF - BE CLEAR - BE ACCURATE

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN COMMUNICATIONS

ABOUT	ABT	FORWARD	FWD
ACKNOWLEDGE	ACK	FORWARDED	FWDD
ADDRESS	ADS	FOR YOUR	
ADDRESSEE	ADSE	INFORMATION	FYI
ADVISE	ADV	GET QUICK	
AGAIN	AGN	ANSWER	GQA
ANSWER	ANS	GO AHEAD	GA
ANSWERED	ANS	IMMEDIATELY	IMMY
ATTENTION	ATTN	MEMORANDUM	MM
BREAK MESSAGE	BUST	MESSAGE	MSG
CABLE	CBL	OUR COPY	OC
CHECK	CK	PLEASE	PLS
CLOSED	CLSD	QUICKLY	QKLY
CODE	CDE	RECEIVED	RECD
COLLECT	COLL	RELAY	RLY
CONFIRM	CFM	RELEASE	RLS
CONFIRMED	CFMD	RELEASED	RLSD
CONFIRMATION	CFN	REPEAT	RPT
COPY	CPY	SENDER	SNDR
DEADHEAD	DH	SERVICE	SVC
DELIVER	DLR	SIGNATURE	SIG
DELIVERED	DLD	SIGNED	SGD
DELIVERY	DLY	SOON AS	
DISREGARD	DIS	POSSIBLE	SAP
DUPLICATE	DUPE	STOP	X
ESTIMATE	EST	THANKS	TKS
		YOU	U
		YOUR	YR
		WORD	WD

BE ACCURATE - BE BRIEF - BE CLEAR - BE ACCURATE

2-4-42  
BUREAU BULLETIN NO. 8  
First Series 1942

- 6 -

	Pass- mark "1"	Pass- mark "2"	Pass- mark "3"	Pass- mark "4"
New York	PASNY	ANY	UNNY	XNY
Miami	PASMI	AMI	UNMI	XMI
New Orleans	PASNO	ANO	UNNO	XNO
San Francisco	PASSF	ASF	UNSF	XSF
Seattle	PASSE	ASE	UNSE	XSE
Guantanamo Bay	PASGO	AGO	UNGO	XGO
San Juan	PASSJ	ASJ	UNSJ	XSJ
St. Thomas	PASST	AST	UNST	XST
St. Croix	PASSC	ASC	UNSC	XSC
Panama	PASPA	APA	UNPA	XPA
Honolulu	PASHU	AHU	UNHU	XHU
Guam	PASGU	AGU	UNGU	XGU
Manila	PASMN	AMN	UNMN	XMN
Reykjavik	PASRK	ARK	UNRK	XRK

Abbreviations Used in Communications Censored by Radio and Cable Censorship -  
Navy

1/16/42

(F) CENSORSHIP. — It is desired that the relationship between the Special Agents in Charge of the Bureau and the local censorship establishments be close and cordial. The local censorship establishments should refer to the local office of the FBI those matters which are local in character and which are of an emergency nature. However, the routine informative intercepts should be sent through regular channels by the censorship establishments to Washington. This is in confirmation of previously issued instructions and is for the purpose of calling attention to the necessity of close liaison and friendly relationship between the field offices of the Bureau and the local censorship establishments.

(G) ASSIGNMENT OF SELECTIVE SERVICE CASES. — In view of the Bureau's present heavy burden of national defense cases in other important classifications it has become necessary to rely to a great extent on local law enforcement agencies for the location of delinquent registrants. Accordingly, Selective Service cases should be assigned with the following instructions in mind:

1. Conscientious Objector cases should be assigned exclusively to Special Agents and completed within 30 days after receipt.
2. Cases involving officials or employees of the Selective Service System should be assigned exclusively to Special Agents and completed within 30 days after the investigation is authorized by the United States Attorney.
3. Special Agents should handle aggravated cases and,
  - (a) those of special interest by reason of unusual circumstances including the possibility of physical resistance or the fact that the subject is a prominent individual or may be suspected of inimical activities.
  - (b) those on which immediate action is requested by the United States Attorney or the local board, and
  - (c) those specifically requested by the Bureau.
4. Special Agents should handle all types of Selective Service cases when the condition of more urgent work in your office permits.
5. All other cases should be assigned to the police after efforts to locate the delinquent registrants by correspondence have failed. If the police cover all logical leads without locating the subject the case may then be deferred for a period not exceeding six months. Thereafter the case should be reassigned to the police for a further check.

9 MAR 31 1942

NOT RECORDED

ORIGINAL FILED IN 66-03-378

3-4-42

BUREAU BULLETIN NO. 18  
First Series 1942

- 4 -

(H) TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES. -- Instructions have been received from the Department to the effect that in the future when Tax Exemption Certificates are issued covering the purchase of gasoline and oil, it will be necessary to indicate on the voucher the number of gallons for which each Tax Exemption Certificate was issued together with the amount of state tax involved. The number of the certificate should also appear on the voucher.

This information will enable the auditors to determine from a review of a voucher whether or not the certificate was correctly issued.

(I) INTERNAL SECURITY, ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL. -- Departmental Circular #3589, Supplement #4, dated February 2, 1942, which is a confidential memorandum to all United States Attorneys regarding Alien Enemy Hearing Boards, advises of the significance attached by the Department of Justice to activity and membership in certain designated organizations. The attention of the Alien enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice was directed to the fact that the Partito Nazionale Fascista (PNF) (National Fascist Party) and the National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei (NSDAP) (National Socialist German Workers Party) were not designated. The Alien Enemy Control Unit has advised as follows:

"The two organizations you mention are, of course, in the most dangerous class. They were omitted from the Circular to United States Attorneys because it was intended to circulate only information which might not be available locally; and it was not anticipated that the United States Attorneys or local hearing boards would fail to appreciate the significance of membership in the National Fascist Party or the National Socialist German Workers Party.

"If any misunderstanding on the part of the boards or the United States Attorneys should arise on this point in the future, the two organizations mentioned will, of course, be brought to the attention of the proper authorities immediately."

I also wish to direct attention to the preparation of the initial reports in cases involving alien enemies, which reports are to contain a detailed summary of all the pertinent information available concerning the subject. In the preparation of these reports, consideration should be given to the fact they will be utilized by the United States Attorney as a basis for his presentation of the case to the Alien Enemy Hearing Board. For that reason the material should be set out in such a manner that it will readily lend itself to such presentation. Where possible, it is suggested that block headings be used such as "Personal History," "Activities," "Admissions of Subject," and "Items Obtained as a Result of Search of Subject's Premises." In addition, available information concerning any organizations to which the activities of the subject are related should be set out under a sub-heading.



TO CC

C

JANURY 24 1942

24 A0575 BV1156 PLKCO BATAVIACENTRUM 24/22 RCA 24

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED] NEW YORK

[REDACTED] INSTANTLY WITHDRAWN STOP REESTABLISH FORMER SYSTEM AS PER  
OUR STRICTLY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LETTER 29 MAY 1940 STOP  
DESTROY TESTKEY

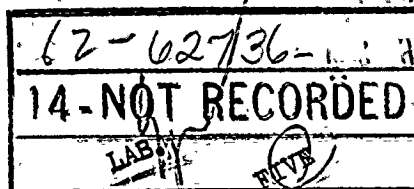
MM REFER TO CCC FOR ACTION THIS MESSAGE IS SENT WITH ANOTHER /SEE ABOVE  
OF IDENTICAL TEXT. THE OTHER MESSAGE HAS A CODED ADDRESS WHICH IS  
UNAUTHORIZED.

RR PLEASE REFER MESSAGES 3157 AND THIS MESSAGE TOGETHER TX U CSF  
1550 CSF 3158

RECD CSF 3158 CCC 1900

3 MAR 21 1942

3/16 R.P.C.



THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1942

ls  
Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 28 to Mr. Byron Price, Director of Censorship, enclosing a communication from Miss Anna Ballmann of Hollywood, California, commenting on broadcasts by Bill Henry over Station KNX in Los Angeles.

An appropriate reply has been made directly to Miss Ballmann.

Sincerely yours,

RADIO DIVISION

Stanley P. Richardson

Stanley P. Richardson

2 MAR 10 1942  
244

62-62236-
17-NOT RECORDED

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1942.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

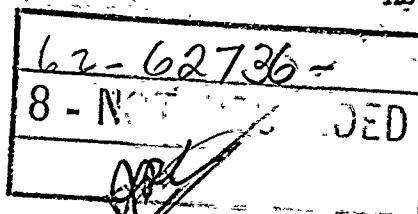
Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your February 21 letter, concerning correspondence from  
Mr. J. A. Ferris, St. Joseph, Missouri, to Mr. Byron Price has been  
referred to me for attention. Thank you for forwarding this matter  
to us.

Sincerely,

*John H. Sorrells*

JOHN H. SORRELLS  
Assistant Director



7 MAR 1 1942  
244

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

WASHINGTON

—  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Mr. J. Edgard Hoover,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

BUY

DEFENSE SAVINGS  
BONDS AND STAMPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 8 1941

POSTAL

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

W 5 BI WASHINGTON DC

XSR 9 SUPP 3 EFRECTIVE IMMEDIATELY NAVY HAS ESTABLISHED CENSOR  
SHIP ALL CABLE AND RADIO MESSAGES INCLUDING SHIP RADIO MESSAGE  
ENTERING LEAVING OR TRANSITING UNITEDSTATES STOP ALL SUCH MESSAGES  
MUST BE PLAIN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVEN IF IN TRANSIT WITH EXCEPTION OF  
USG BRITISH AND USSR GOVERNMENT TRAFFIC ALL MESSAGES MUST BE  
SIGNED BY SNXX SENDER REGISTERED ADDRESSES PROHIBITED STOP FOREGOING  
DOES NOT APPLY AS YET TO CANADA AND MEXICO

T P DOWD SUPT WASHINGTON DC DEC 7-8 1941  
1010AM

Postal

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-62736-129  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 DEC 11 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAB

cc lab

JEH:HCB

December 11, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SHEA

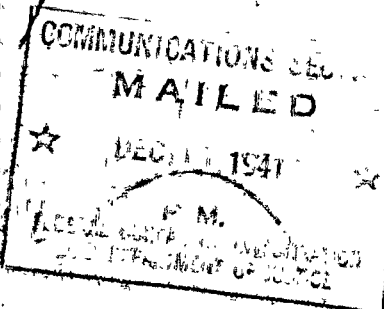
I am inclosing herewith, for your information, a copy of a summary memorandum on the status of the Censorship project, as well as charts showing the number of Japanese, German and Italian aliens taken into custody by the FBI as of December 11th. You will note the latter charts give the exact location of the numbers apprehended and places at which they were apprehended.

Very truly yours

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

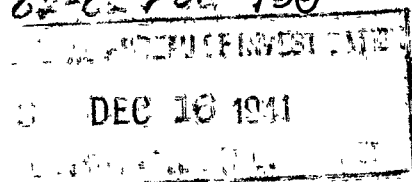
Inclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED

62-62736-130



RECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-2-1

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

AR:GEG

December 8, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to local telephone calls, the latest arrangement, effected by the State Department with the telephone company in the District of Columbia, is as follows. This was in effect at 12:15 last night. The following Embassies are allowed to make all local telephone calls which they desire: German, Italian, French and Japanese.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7E

Respectfully,

*A. Rosen*

A. Rosen

12-10-41 -  
memo Per  
HAC

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
*mg*

CH-20

62-62736-131

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 DEC 15 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

HHC:MS:BG

December 10, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Censorship - [redacted]  
Filed for Dispatch in District of Columbia

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒  
Mr. Clegg ☒  
Mr. Glavin ☒  
Mr. Ladd ☒  
Mr. Nichols ☒  
Mr. Tracy ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Carson ☒  
Mr. Coffey ☒  
Mr. Hendon ☒  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☒  
Mr. Holloman ☒  
Mr. Harbo ☒  
Tele. Room ☒ b7E  
Your Room ☒  
Mr. Nease ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

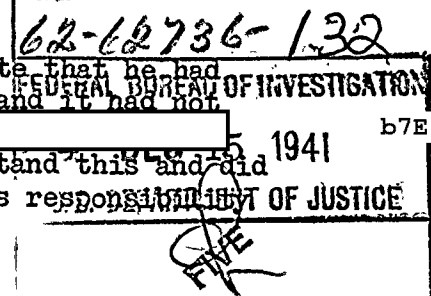
1. The request previously made of the telegraph companies [redacted] filed in the District of Columbia to be sent by cable or wireless to Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Finland was cancelled at about 6:00 P.M. last night. The request for this cancellation was made by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Fletcher Warren of the State Department and concurrence was obtained from General Miles of MID and Captain Wilkinson of ONI.

Mr. McKee, who made the requests, cancelled them and at the State Department's request asked Western Union, Postal Telegraph and RCA to telephone the embassies and legations in the District of Columbia advising that their messages would be received and promptly dispatched.

2. This was a pending problem which was brought to my attention last Monday afternoon by Mr. Rosen. Mr. Fletcher Warren in Mr. Rosen's office on Sunday night, December 7th, had requested Mr. Rosen to take the action to cause a holding in Washington of all such messages in dispatching them from Washington. to be applied only to the District of Columbia and [redacted] to which the messages were filed for sending. (It will be noted that there was no cancellation on the order about [redacted] and this was specifically pointed out by McKee.) The initial request was [redacted] Mr. Rosen advised that pressure by the telegraph companies was being asserted for a renewal of authority or rescinding the order.

I telephoned Mr. Fletcher Warren. He conferred with Mr. Berle and called back stating that the practice should be continued. Captain Hurd, acting in charge of ONI, and Colonel Winslow, acting in charge of MID, concurred. Winslow stated that they had, in fact, made a similar request. I instructed SAC McKee to renew the request, which he did.

3. Mr. Gordon telephoned yesterday afternoon late that he had received a protest from RCA. He conferred with Mr. Berle and it had not been Mr. Berle's intention to authorize [redacted] Mr. Warren did not understand this and did not explain it adequately to Mr. Berle. Mr. Warren accepts responsibility.



CH-20



for his failure to make it clear but at the request of Mr. Gordon and Mr. Warren the cancellation was made and the communication companies were informed that they should [redacted] would now be received and dispatched.

b7E

4. It appears that when Mr. Rosen gave instructions to Mr. McKee, he intended only Western Union and Postal Telegraph, as instructed. Mr. McKee had understood that RCA was also to be affected, but Mr. Warren stated that the withdrawal of the request now would make the matter entirely satisfactory and it was done.

5. Mr. Allen of Western Union had telephoned yesterday afternoon, stating that they needed written authority for [redacted] [redacted] This was before the notification to cancel was received. I authorized Mr. McKee to furnish the written authorization, which he did.

b7E

Respectfully,

H. H. Clegg

HHC:LM

December 14, 1941

The Honorable  
The Postmaster General  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Postmaster General:

Re: Censorship

I felt you would be interested in some of the additional developments in connection with censorship activities during the past twenty-four hours. During this time the [redacted]

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At the request of the State Department, since [redacted]

b7D

I called a conference yesterday of representatives from the State, Treasury, War and Navy Departments, the Federal Communications Commission and the FBI with regard to the censoring of communications being carried on the person or in the baggage of travelers crossing the Mexico border. The customs officials are now making a sampling process based on suspicion. They do not feel that they would be justified in making a search of a large percentage of those who cross the Mexico border since there are thousands who cross at various points during each day in pursuit of their normal vocations and to make a detailed examination of any substantial portion of them would hold up the lines of traffic for an extended period of time. I am communicating with Treasury

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy

Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ DEC 15 1941 ★

F. B. I.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-62736-133

10

Department officials and suggesting there be a tightening up within the bounds of reason, and it appears that this is as far as we can go at this time in view of the position taken by the State Department that too much pressure applied by this sort of procedure might endanger

[redacted] I do feel that this is a definite loophole but have been assured by the State Department that they have inquired of [redacted] if they would stop all communications between [redacted] It is understood that [redacted] has made an offer to do this, and I believe it would be at least some help to get this cooperation from [redacted]

b7D

There is another loophole in the channels of communication that give no definite concern. At the request of the State Department married Japanese officials of the Japanese Embassy in Washington are permitted to go to their homes at night. They are under escort to and from their homes [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] Yet it is entirely possible for the wives, children and servants to carry out communications the following day for dispatch to any domestic point. Of course, there is a censorship of outgoing communications but this definite go, in communication control is in existence. It has been called to the attention of the State Department and they are desirous that the present practice be continued.

I received from the State Department proposals for immunity from censorship [redacted] and this proposal is now being studied by representatives of the interested departments. I have also received proposals for study submitted by a War Department official establishing control agencies whose functions would be similar to a "Ministry of Information" or a "Ministry of Propaganda." This, of course, would involve administrative policy and has been referred for study to the Committee on Basic Policies and Principles for Censorship.

b7E

I am very glad to inform you that, although there has existed for many months an unofficial liaison with the [redacted] censorship establishment, this liaison has now been developed along more definite lines and the [redacted] in the United States have already been contacted with the view to developing the closest possible coordination and cooperation.

b7D

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Since the last report to you there have been numerous specific problems which have arisen and which have been handled expeditiously. For example, the State Department was desirous of [redacted] in Washington

b7E

and through the officials handling cable censorship this matter was expedited. This is typical of numerous problems of coordination between the various departments which are handled throughout the day.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM  
OCT 12 8 35 PM '41  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
E 6



62-62736-133

HHC:LH:MS

December 12, 1941

The Honorable  
The Postmaster General  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Postmaster General:

I thought you would be interested in learning further developments in the field of censorship. As you are aware, authority was given to Army officials yesterday to promptly begin the censorship of all incoming, outgoing and in transit international mail. This censorship will become effective within forty-eight hours. There must of necessity be a selectivity in the sampling processes until the personnel engaged on censorship work has been increased to the point where it can handle the entire load.

I also authorized Navy Department officials to censor the privately leased wires between the United States and Cuba and any other wires privately leased for international communications [redacted]

b7D

There have been discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications addressed to Germany and Italy. No deliveries are now being made of any communications addressed to the German and Italian Embassies which are received from Germany and Italy. The same application is being made to German and Italian occupied territories. This practice has previously been applied to Japan and Japanese occupied territory.

I have requested and obtained a one hundred per cent surveillance of all [redacted] in the United States by the Federal Communications Commission.

b7E

62-62736-133

see serial 533 same file  
for authority to file  
6.25-43

One of the problems which has existed is that, although radio technicians have been fingerprinted, the fingerprints have not been made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination against the fingerprint files which we maintain. The taking of the fingerprints and holding of them has therefore been of no value. This has been the case because the Chairman of the FCC made promises to certain labor officials that these fingerprints would not be made available to any other agency. The Chairman of the FCC has now been persuaded to communicate with labor leaders to obtain a release from this pledge to enable the FCC to take appropriate action with reference to any undesirable technicians handling domestic or international broadcasts in the United States. I have also requested the Chairman of the FCC to explore the possibility of his conducting appropriate investigations of any alien news commentators with a view to taking such action as the facts may justify.

It has now been confirmed that the customs authorities are making a one hundred per cent check of all international shipments, incoming, outgoing and in transit, with a view to censoring any communications and publications contained therein. The same rule is being applied by them to outgoing, incoming and in transit travelers and their luggage.

There is a "jamming" of the wave which is presently being utilized by a radio station in the German Embassy to make communications going out of that station unintelligible. This station has been recently located and apparently has been but recently installed.

For the purposes of coordination, conferences were held yesterday with representatives of Federal Communications Commission and also with naval and military authorities to coordinate the various phases of censorship activities which are being practiced and initiated. I have been particularly pleased at the cooperative attitude displayed in this coordination effort.

- 3 -

Arrangements also have been made for the delivery to me this morning of [redacted] that they may be censored.

b7E

There is attached hereto a statement of present practices in the field of censorship which brings this matter up to date.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure



December 11, 1941

RE: CENSORSHIP

THE PRESENT PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF  
CENSORSHIP AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Military and Naval censorship of communications to and from Military and Naval personnel is in effect at bases outside of the United States, including bases leased from the  Government.

b7D

2. Military and Naval Communications Sections have been confidentially engaged in the surveilling of various types of international radio communications which were believed might be of special significance to the Army and Navy.

3. The Federal Communications Commission is doing a general monitoring job in all unauthorized fields of radio communication, point-to-point radio communications and unauthorized broadcasts. In this connection, the Federal Communications Commission is continually patrolling the ether to pick up any unauthorized transmittals or broadcasts.

4. The Federal Communications Commission conducts a monitoring of every word of incoming propaganda transmitted by radio.

5. The Federal Communications Commission is now covering some foreign point-to-point radio communications and is equipped to cover additional ones upon request.

6. The Federal Communications Commission is now doing general monitoring surveillances in the domestic broadcast field when pertinent to and in connection with foreign language broadcasts.

7. The Federal Communications Commission places a limitation on the use of radios on foreign ships in United States waters. They are not permitted to use their radios except for safety and similar purposes.

8. The Federal Communications Commission prohibits amateur radio stations and radio operators broadcasting to foreign countries.

9. The Federal Communications Commission controls, through its licensing power, radio operators and radio stations. This licensing power is naturally a strong influence, as the Commission can refuse to grant a license to an operator or a station and can revoke licenses already issued.

10. The Federal Communications Commission requires that a complete record be maintained of all communications by domestic telegraph, by international cable telegraph, by international radio telegraph, and all similar communications by radio from ship to shore and international communications. The carrier or transmittal companies are required to keep copies of communications and programs and require that these communications be maintained in a file. At present, these communications must be maintained for one year.

The only review of any of the communications and records, which has taken place, has been done for the purpose of determining the classification of communications, the speed of transmittal, the type of service, and usually these searches are made in connection with hearings. The Federal Communications Commission has not engaged in the practice of reviewing the messages as to context material.

11. The Federal Communications Commission is establishing an office in [ ] and is obtaining from the [ ] access to their files and records concerning European broadcasts.

12. The Post Office Department examines samples of suspected mail items, not including first class letters, but including prints, parcel post and papers, for the purpose of determining if the publication or the mailer is registered under the Registration Act or to determine if the matter can be classified as propaganda. An opinion is then obtained as to whether the matter is nonmailable, and suitable action taken.

13. The Post Office Department examines first class mail only when there is an indication that the contents are contraband and the addressee or addressor can be persuaded to open the communication in the presence of Postal authorities, or when there is adequate information to support the use of a search warrant in examining the mail.

14. The Post Office Department prohibits the transmission through the mails of publications which violate copyright laws.

15. The Post Office Department enforces the laws which provide penalties for transmission by mail of certain items, such as poisons; explosives; obscene matter; libelous, indecent and fictitious matter; and several other classifications prohibited specifically by statute.

16. The Post Office Department, at the request of the FBI, will hold suspected mail for 48 hours until a search warrant can be obtained to permit examination.

17. Customs inspection aids in controlling all incoming mail, except first class mail, and also aids in controlling communications which may be shipped internationally by freight or other means.

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b7E

18. Freight and other exports are examined by Customs authorities to determine the existence of information of value to the American export control system, narcotics control and proclamations prohibiting the export of firearms.

19. It is a practice of Customs officials to search persons and their belongings when they are outgoing or incoming Nationals of Japan, Germany, Italy and the "blocked" nations.

20. All incoming vessels are searched by Customs authorities, and outgoing vessels are searched when a special reason exists.

21. The Liaison Section of the General Counsel's Office, Treasury Department, examines suspected literature to determine if it is propaganda or subversive literature. The information is reviewed, digested, analyzed to some extent, and referred to interested departments and agencies. This examination includes films, photographs, books and publications.

22. Foreign Funds Control receives from Customs and Post Office authorities and investigative agencies any incoming material from foreign countries which might contain securities or be of interest in controlling foreign funds.

23. The U. S. Maritime Commission endeavors to get the cooperation of newspapers so that they will cease publishing specific information concerning the movements of merchant ships and cargoes.

24. The Economic Defense Board receives intercepts, usually those discovered by [redacted] censorship, through the State Department, the FBI, and from Military and Naval Intelligence, when the intercepted material relates to matters of economic defense.

25. The FBI maintains close liaison with [redacted] censorship and receives all intercepts considered of value from an intelligence standpoint. A similar relationship exists with [redacted]

26. The FBI receives intercepts from the Federal Communications Commission and occasionally from the Coast Guard when the contents relate to matters of intelligence.

27. The FBI operates a radio monitoring station for handling intelligence work, including radio surveillance in cases of counter-espionage and countersabotage, when the cases are within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

28. The Library of Congress has a current interest in all literature seized as propaganda. The information is for the files of the Library and for possible restricted dissemination to certain interested government departments. [redacted]

[redacted] contributes to the total collection of such items. The Library performs a selection and examination function in connection with material recommended to the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs for dissemination in Latin America.

b7D

29. The State Department censors [redacted] both as to incoming and outgoing mail. There is a sampling of from 33-1/3 to 50 per cent of the contents of [redacted] to see that the contents comply with regulations which have been promulgated by the State Department to the effect that only that mail may be included which is for the purpose of promoting and protecting American interests.

b7E

30. The Immigration and Naturalization Service censors mail addressed to or from persons held under deportation processes.

31. The Immigration and Naturalization Service may require an alien departing from the United States to submit for official inspection all documents and articles and other things which are being removed from the United States upon, or in connection with, such person's departure.

32. The Federal Bureau of Prisons makes a one hundred per cent censorship of all incoming and outgoing mail of inmates incarcerated in their institutions. The Federal Bureau of Prisons also determines what magazines and books may be received and read by the inmates and also selects the radio programs which they may hear.

33. A spot-check is made on all domestic foreign language broadcasts made in the United States. There are 200 stations using 31 foreign languages.

34. The Federal Communications Commission is constantly patrolling the ether along a systematic line, looking for illegal radio stations.

Censorship Practices Inaugurated  
Since the Beginning of Hostilities

35. No messages of any kind are permitted to be dispatched to Japan and to Japanese occupied territory.

36. The FBI has instructed that no telephone calls be permitted to be sent into or out of the Japanese Embassy in Washington.

37. The FBI has requested telephone companies not to permit Japanese to telephone to any point outside of the continental United States.

38. The Navy Department is conducting censorship by surveillance of international communications by radio-telephone, radio-telegraph, and by cable.

39. The Navy is surveilling communications from all coastal harbor stations.

40. The Army is censoring telegraph and telephone communications between Mexico and the United States.

41. No international telegraphic communications are permitted to be delivered to the Japanese Embassy or Japanese consulates in the United States.

42. The Federal Communications Commission has imposed radio silence on all commercial ships.

43. The Federal Communications Commission is monitoring all possible frequencies to intercept international communications between Mexico and Axis points.

44. A surveillance is being conducted of any possible radio transmitters from [redacted] and signals have already been detected emanating from [redacted]

b7E

45. An FCC inspector has established liaison with designated military posts so that, upon military request, the FCC will require radio facilities to close down temporarily until further instructions.

46. The Coordinator of Information Office listens to all international broadcasts through a central station in New York.

47. The FCC is maintaining a spot-check on a station at Lima, Peru, which communicates with Tokyo and Berlin, and on another at Bogota, Colombia, which communicates with Rome and Berlin.

48. All amateur radio broadcasts have been discontinued except those approved by the FCC for use in national defense and the Office of Civilian Defense.

49. All commercial codes have been stopped. Later certain codes will be approved.

50. On December 11, 1941, there were discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications addressed to Germany and Italy, and no deliveries are to be made of any communications, even addressed to German and Italian Embassies, which are received from Germany or Italy.

51. Instructions were issued whereby military authorities will have in operation a postal censorship on incoming, outgoing and in-transit mail of an international character within forty-eight hours. There will necessarily be a selectivity in the sampling of these types of mail proportionate to the progressive increase in personnel.

52. The Office of Naval Intelligence was authorized to censor international communications by leased wire which will become effective in the United States.

53. The Treasury Department through its customs agents now reports a one hundred per cent censorship of international communications by freight, express, air express and that carried by passengers on their person or in their luggage. This applies to incoming, outgoing and in-transit transportation of communications.

54. The FCC now reports a one hundred per cent censorship of all Japanese language broadcasts as well as the spot surveillance of all other foreign language broadcasts.

55. There has been discontinued all telegraph, cable and radio communications with German and Italian occupied countries.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
December 8, 1941

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

10:15 a.m.

SAC McKee of the Washington Field Office telephonically advised that Mr. Guthrie, head of the RCA, Washington, D. C., informed him that [redacted]

through the Army censorship which became effective at 10:00 p.m. last night in New York. Therefore, they contemplated [redacted]

Mr. McKee asked if there were any reason why this should not be done. In view of the fact that the Army has taken over the censorship and superseded our orders, I advised SAC McKee that the RCA should take this up with the Army censors in New York.

Respectfully,

*D. M. Ladd*  
D. M. Ladd

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62-62736-134  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 DEC 12 1941  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-6

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

AR:AI

December 8, 1941

1:05 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. Gordon of the State Department called with reference to the meeting scheduled for today in the Director's office relative to censorship. He inquired whether this was an official meeting and I told him it was by Executive Order of the President. He advised that Mr. Berle had asked him to come and he wanted to know whether there was another meeting in Colonel Donovan's office today. I told him that I did not know of such a meeting.

Respectfully,

*A. Rosen*  
A. Rosen

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Holloman	
Mr. Harbo	
Tele. Room	
Tour Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Boehm	
Miss Gandy	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Censorship of cables etc.



143:26

December 13, 1941

PERSONAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. George A. Gordon  
Acting Chief  
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Reference is made to your letter of December 9, 1941, your reference FC, with which you inclosed proposed regulations for consideration by the Subcommittee on Censorship Policies and Principles concerning exemption from censorship of diplomatic and consular mail and other forms of communication.

I assure you that these proposals will be submitted to the Subcommittee on Policies and Principles, and I am today forwarding a copy of them to Mr. MacLeish who is chairman of this subcommittee.

Confirming conversation by telephone between you and Mr. Clegg, you are advised that Major Corderman, presently in charge of postal censorship, is of the opinion that there should be a definite limitation to three or four members of a mission who may be delegated to sign communications from a mission and thus have them exempted from censorship. Major Corderman has further expressed the opinion that American interests supersede the gratuitous granting of exemption to consular mail. He is of the opinion that if silence is maintained on this point, such exemptions as are desired may be granted as a matter of courtesy but if there should arise any situation which would warrant a censorship of any portion of consular mail, there would be no pledge outstanding which would interfere with our interests in this matter.

RECORDED & INDEXED *aw*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 32762
★ DEC 15 1941 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-62736-130
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CH-22

Page 2

I am submitting these views for your consideration prior to the discussion which you have invited Major Conderman to have with you on these points. I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in submitting the proposals, and your copy is being returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. [illegible]

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

10:20

December 13, 1941

~~CONFIDENTIAL AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Archibald Macleish  
Librarian  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Macleish:

I am referring to you herewith, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Principles and Policies of Censorship, a communication received from Acting Chief George A. Gordon of the Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, Department of State, with proposals for exemption of diplomatic communications from censorship.

There is also inclosed a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Gordon which includes certain observations made by Major Corderman who is now in charge of postal censorship.

This reference is being made for study and recommendation by your committee.

Sincerely yours,

Inclosures

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION	
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★	DEC 15 1941 ★
P. M.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

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HHC:MS

December 15, 1941

PERSONAL AND  
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Archibald MacLeish  
Librarian  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. MacLeish:

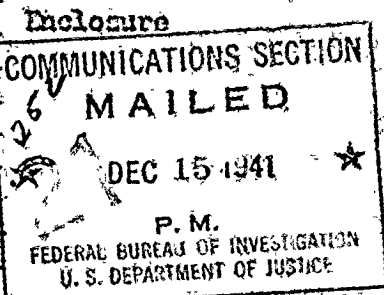
There were submitted to the Censorship Subcommittee on Organization by Lieutenant Colonel Percy G. Black of the War Department two plans for transmittal to the Committee on Basic Policies and Principles for study and recommendation. The plans are (1) The Control of News Agencies, and (2) The Use of News Agencies for Propaganda.

Colonel Black has indicated his willingness to appear before your committee or the General Conference on Censorship Matters to explain these plans in greater detail, if desired. The plans seem to concern themselves with the establishment of agencies which might be identified as a "ministry of information" and a "ministry of propaganda".

There are transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of the diagrammatic charts of the plans in question.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

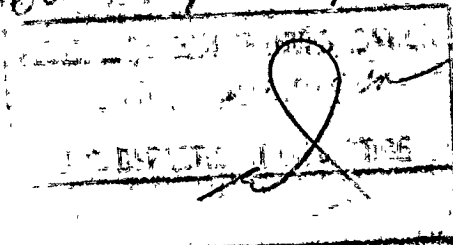


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RECEIVED

December 15, 1941

Mr. George A. Gordon  
Acting Chief  
Division of Foreign Activity  
and Correlation  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 12, 1941, your reference F3, in which you suggest that a committee on censorship consider the desirability of dealing with cryptographic matters so that henceforth there will be one central governing office placed in the censorship office dealing with this type of work. This is to advise you that I have referred this matter to the Committee on Organization and Operations for consideration and recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
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★ DEC 15 1941 ★  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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